

# WO02085866

Publication Title:

## NOVEL COMPOUNDS

Abstract:

Abstract of WO02085866

Compounds of general formula (I), are disclosed and claimed in the present application, as well as salts and pharmaceutical compositions comprising the novel compounds and their use in therapy, in particular in the management of pain. Data supplied from the esp@cenet database - Worldwide< d84 /center>

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(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date  
31 October 2002 (31.10.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 02/085866 A1(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: C07D 239/06,  
A61K 31/4184LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,  
MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG,  
SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ,  
VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(21) International Application Number: PCT/SE02/00769

(22) International Filing Date: 18 April 2002 (18.04.2002)

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,  
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),  
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR,  
GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent  
(BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR,  
NE, SN, TD, TG).

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
0101387-9 20 April 2001 (20.04.2001) SE**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): AS-  
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— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,

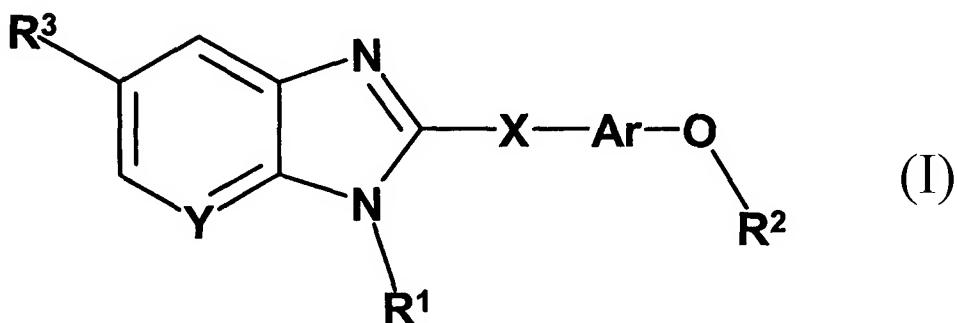
**Published:**

— with international search report  
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: NOVEL COMPOUNDS

WO 02/085866 A1



(57) Abstract: Compounds of general formula (I), are disclosed and claimed in the present application, as well as salts and pharmaceutical compositions comprising the novel compounds and their use in therapy, in particular in the management of pain.

## NOVEL COMPOUNDS

Field of the invention

5 The present invention is directed to novel compounds and salts thereof which are agonists at the CB2 receptor. The compounds are useful in therapy, in particular for the therapy of pain. The present invention also relates to processes for the manufacture of the novel compounds, to pharmaceutical compositions containing them, and to the use of the compounds in therapy, particularly for the therapy of pain.

10 Background of the Invention

Two cannabinoid receptors are known: one is expressed predominately in the central nervous system (CB1), whereas the other is located in the periphery and is primarily restricted to cells and tissues derived from the immune system (CB2). (Abood and Martin Int. Rev. of 15 Neurobio. 39, 197-221, (1996).

While agonists at the CB1 receptor, and mixed agonists, are highly effective in anti-nociception models in animals, it has not proved possible to separate the desired analgesic actions from the undesired CNS side-effects to any great degree. These undesired CNS side-effects are known to be mediated by the CB1 receptor.

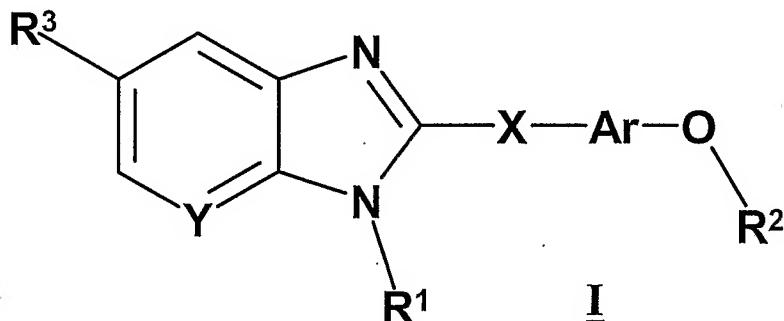
20 A number of reports indicate an important role for CB2 in pathophysiology. In particular, Munro *et.al.* [Nature 365 61-65 (1993)] have found that the expression of the CB2 receptor is induced under conditions of immune cell activation. Hanus *et. al* [PNAS 96, 14228-14233 (1999)] have recently provided evidence that a CB2 agonist elicits anti-inflammatory and peripheral analgesic activity. Moreover, Mazzari *et. al.* [Soc. Neurosci. 25 Abstr. 23 652 (1995)] have shown that CB2 activation inhibits mechanical hyperalgesia associated with nerve injury. These results indicate that the CB2 receptor is an interesting target for the discovery of novel analgesics which would be expected to be devoid of CB1 mediated side-effects associated with conventional cannabinoid agonists, e.g., tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Moreover, as the CB2 receptors are limited to the periphery, 30 selective CB2 agonists may be expected to reduce pain without the psychoactive side effects and the commonly perceived abuse potential of centrally acting cannabimimetic (CB1) or opiate drugs.

Analgesics that have been identified and are existing in the prior art have many disadvantages among which are poor pharmacokinetics and loss of analgesic activity when administered by systemic routes.

5 **Detailed Description of the Invention:**

The compounds according to the present invention are defined by the formula I, and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and diastereomers, and enantiomers and mixtures thereof:

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wherein

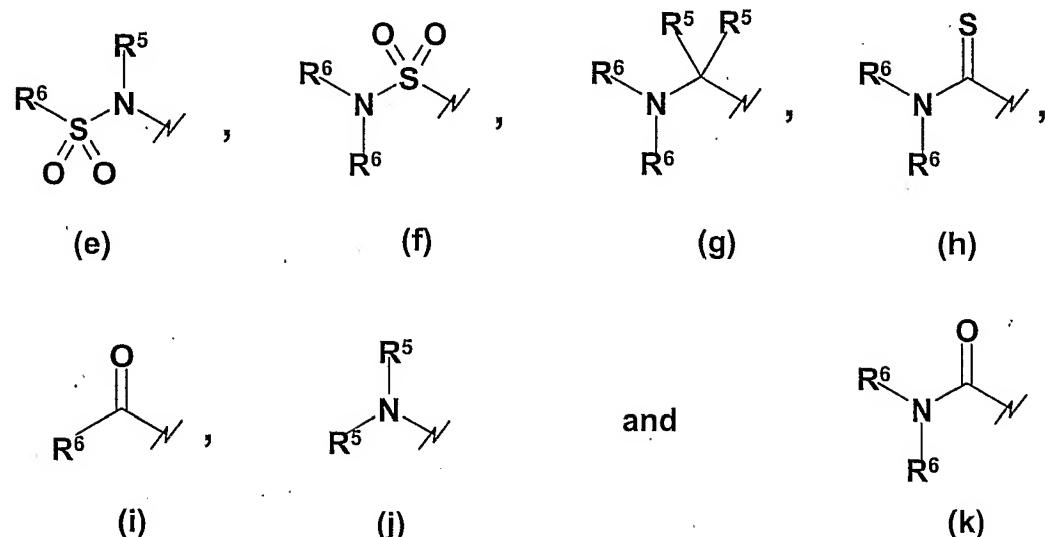
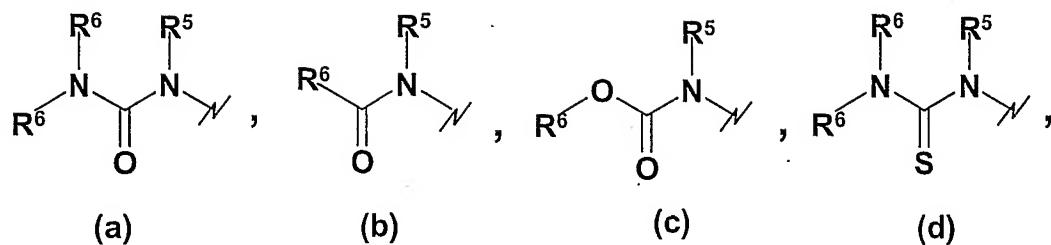
15  $R^1$  is selected from the group consisting of  $-(C_1-C_8)alkyl$ ,  $-(C_2-C_8)alkenyl$ ,  $R^4_2N(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ ,  $R^4_2NC(=O)(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ ;  $R^4O(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ ,  $R^4OC(=O)(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ ,  $R^4C(=O)(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ ,  $R^4C(=O)NR^4(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ ,  $R^4_2NSO_2(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ ,  $R^4CSO_2NR^4(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ ,  $R^4_2NC(=O)NR^4(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ ,  $R^4_2NSO_2NR^4(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ , aryl( $C_1-C_6)alkyl$ , aroyl( $C_1-C_6)alkyl$ , heteroaryl( $C_1-C_6)alkyl$ , heteroaroyl( $C_1-C_6)alkyl$ , heterocycloalkyl( $C_1-C_6)alkyl$ , bicyclic heteroaryl( $C_1-C_6)alkyl$  and bicyclic heteroaroyl( $C_1-C_6)alkyl$ ;

20  $R^1$  moieties comprise unsubstituted  $-(C_2-C_8)alkenyl$ , and  $-(C_1-C_8)alkyl$  unsubstituted or substituted by one or more moieties independently selected from the group consisting of halogen, cyano, acetoxymethyl, and nitro;

Ar is an optionally substituted aryl moiety;

$R^2$  is  $-(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ , unsubstituted or substituted (on 1-6 carbons) by one or more fluorine substituents, or  $(C_3-C_6)cycloalkyl$ ;

25  $R^3$  is selected from the group consisting of:



$R^4$  is a moiety independently selected from the group consisting of -H,  $-(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ ,  $-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl$  and  $-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl$ ;

5 NR<sup>4</sup><sub>2</sub> comprises compounds wherein NR<sup>4</sup><sub>2</sub> forms a heterocyclyl ring system, e.g.,  
pyrrole, piperidine, piperazine, or pyrrolidinone;

$R^5$  moieties are independently selected from the group consisting of -H, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, -(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl and heterocyclyl;

NR<sup>5</sup><sub>2</sub> comprises compounds wherein NR<sup>5</sup><sub>2</sub> forms a heterocyclyl ring system, e.g.,  
10 pyrrole, piperidine, piperazine, or pyrrolidinone;

$R^6$  moieties are independently selected from the group consisting of: -H,  $-(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ ,  $-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl$  and  $-(C_1-C_6)alkanoyl$ , heterocyclyl, heterocyclyl( $C_1-C_3$ )alkyl, aryl, aryl( $C_1-C_3$ )alkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryl( $C_1-C_3$ )alkyl, bicyclic heteroaryl, and bicyclic heteroaryl( $C_1-C_3$ )alkyl;

15 R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> may combine to form a 5-7 membered heterocycle, e.g., pyrrole, piperidine, piperazine, pyrrolidinone, homopiperazine, or hexamethyleneimine;

X is selected from the group consisting of  $-\text{C}(\text{R}^5)_2-$ ,  $-\text{NR}^5-$ ,  $\text{C}(=\text{O})-$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ ,  $-\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{C}(\text{R})(\text{R}')-$ , and  $-\text{S}(\text{O})_n-$  (where  $n = 0, 1$  or  $2$ ), where  $\text{R}$  and  $\text{R}' = (\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)\text{alkyl}$ ,

OR'', or H, and R'' = H or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl; and

Y is C or N.

The term alkyl, when used herein includes straight chain, branched chain and cyclic substituents, for example, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, t-butyl, cyclopropylmethyl and cyclopentyl, and moieties on alkyl chains may be anywhere on the chain, such that amino(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl includes 1-aminopropyl and 2-aminopropyl.

The term halogen, when used herein comprises fluorine, chlorine, bromine and iodine.

The term aryl moiety includes aromatic carbocycles, five-membered heteroaromatic ring systems, six-membered heteroaromatic ring systems and bicyclic heteroaromatic ring systems.

Aromatic carbocycle includes phenyl and naphthyl.

A five-membered heteroaromatic ring system is a monocyclic aromatic ring system having five ring atoms wherein 1, 2 or 3 ring atoms are independently selected from N, O and S.

Preferably, five-membered heteroaromatic ring systems are selected from the group consisting of thienyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, pyrazolyl, isothiazolyl, isoxazolyl, 1,2,3-triazolyl, tetrazolyl, 1,2,3-thiadiazolyl, 1,2,3-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, 1,2,4-thiadiazolyl, 1,2,4-oxadiazolyl, 1,3,4-triazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl, and 1,3,4-oxadiazolyl.

A six-membered heteroaromatic ring system is a monocyclic aromatic ring system having six ring atoms wherein 1, 2 or 3 ring atoms are N.

Preferably, six-membered heteroaromatic ring systems are selected from the group consisting of pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, triazinyl and pyridazinyl.

A bicyclic heteroaromatic ring system is a ring system having two five- or six-membered heteroaromatic rings, or a phenyl and a five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring, or a phenyl and a heterocycl ring, or a five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring and a heterocycl ring; connected by a ring fusion, said bicyclic heteroaromatic ring system comprising 8 to 12 ring atoms wherein 1, 2 or 3 of the ring atoms are independently selected from N, O and S.

Bicyclic heteroaromatic ring systems are preferably selected from the group consisting of indole, indoline, quinoline, tetrahydroquinoline, isoquinoline, tetrahydroisoquinoline, 1,4-benzodioxan, coumarin, dihydrocoumarin, benzofuran, 2,3-dihydrobenzofuran, 1,2-benzisoxazole, benzothiophene, benzoxazole, benzthiazole, benzimidazole, benztriazole,

pyrrolizidine, and quinolizidine.

A heterocyclyl or heterocyclic moiety is a saturated or partially saturated ring system having 3 to 7 ring atoms wherein 1, 2 or 3 ring atoms are independently selected from N, O and S.

5 Heterocyclyl moieties are preferably selected from the group consisting of aziridine, oxirane, thiirane, azetidine, oxetane, thietane, pyrrolidine, pyrrolidine, imidazolidine, pyrazolidine, dioxolane, sulfolane 2,3-dihydrofuran, 2,5-dihydrofuran, tetrahydrofuran, thiophanyl, piperidine, piperazine, morpholine, 2,3-dihydropyran, tetrahydropyran, 1,4-dihydropyridinyl, 1,4-dioxanyl, 1,3-dioxanyl, dioxanyl, homopiperidinyl, homopiperazinyl, 10 1,3-dioxepane, 4,7-dihydro-1,3-dioxepin, and hexamethylene oxide.

Aromatic, heteroaromatic, heterocyclyl, and bicyclic heteroaromatic moieties are unsubstituted or substituted on ring carbons preferably by moieties independently selected from the group consisting of: halogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, hydroxy,  $-NR_2^4$ ,  $-C(=O)OR^4$ ,  $-C(=O)R^4$ ,  $-C(=O)NR_2^4$ ,  $-NR_2^4C(=O)R^4$ ,  $-(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ ,  $-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl$ ,  $-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl$ ,  $-OR^4$ ,  $-SR^4$ ,  $-SO_2R_4$ , oxo ( $=O$ ), imino ( $=NR^4$ ), thio ( $=S$ ), and oximino ( $=N-OR^4$ ).

15 Ring nitrogen atoms, of five-membered heteroaromatic, heterocyclyl or bicyclic heteroaromatic ring systems are unsubstituted or substituted, if such substitution is chemically possible without quaternization of said ring nitrogen, preferably with moieties independently selected from the group consisting of  $-(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ , and  $-C(=O)R^4$ .

20 Substituents  $-(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ ,  $-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl$  and  $-(C_1-C_6)alkanoyl$  are unsubstituted or substituted on one or more carbons by moieties independently selected from the group consisting halogen, hydroxy,  $-OR^4$  and  $-NR_2^4$ .

25 It will be understood that when compounds of the present invention contain one or more chiral centers, the compounds of the invention may exist in, and be isolated as, enantiomeric or diastereomeric forms, or as a racemic mixture. The present invention includes any possible enantiomers, diastereomers, racemates or mixtures thereof, of a compound of Formula I which acts as a CB2 agonist. The synthesis of optically active forms may be carried out by standard techniques of organic chemistry well known in the art, for example by chiral chromatographic separation of a racemate, by synthesis from optically active starting materials or by asymmetric synthesis.

30 It will also be appreciated that certain compounds of the present invention may exist as geometrical isomers, for example E and Z isomers of alkenes. The present invention includes

any geometrical isomer of a compound of Formula I which acts as a CB2 agonist. It will further be understood that the present invention encompasses tautomers of the compounds of the formula I.

It will also be understood that certain compounds of the present invention may exist in solvated, for example hydrated, as well as unsolvated forms. It will further be understood that the present invention encompasses all such solvated forms of the compounds of the formula I which act as CB2 agonists.

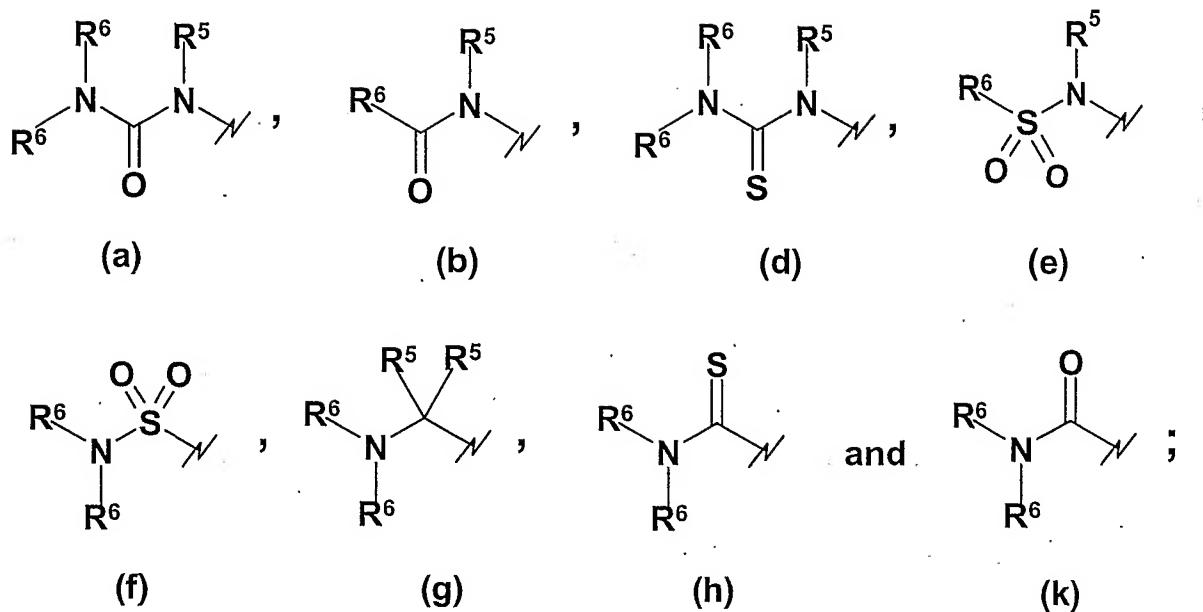
In preferred embodiments of formula I, if  $R_1$  represents  $R^4_2N(C_1-C_6)alkyl-$ , wherein 10 both occurrences of  $R_4$  represent  $-(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ , then  $R_3$  is selected from the moieties (as set forth above) (a), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), and (k), and optionally (b) and (i) (except where  $R_6$  is  $-(C_1-C_6)alkyl$  (especially methyl, e.g.,  $R_3$  represents acetyl or acetamido)) and (j) (except where  $R_5$  is H for both occurrences, e.g.,  $R_3$  represents a primary amine)..

Preferred compounds of the present invention are those of Formula I wherein;

15  $R^1$  is selected from the group consisting of  $-(C_1-C_8)alkyl$   $-(C_2-C_8)alkenyl$ ,  $aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ ,  $R^4_2N(C_1-C_6)alkyl-$ ,  $R^4O(C_1-C_6)alkyl-$ ,  $-heterocycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl$  (4- to 8-membered), and  $heteroaryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ ;  
wherein aryl and heteroaryl  $R^1$  moieties are unsubstituted or substituted by  $-(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ , acetoxyethyl, or halogen;

20  $R^2$  is selected from the group consisting of  $-CH_3$ ,  $-CH_2CH_3$ ,  $-CH(CH_3)_2$ ,  $(C_3-C_5)cycloalkyl$ , and  $CF_3$ ;

$R^3$  is selected from the group consisting of:



Ar is an aryl moiety; unsubstituted or substituted by one or more moieties

5 independently selected from the group consisting of (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, halogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, hydroxy and -OR<sup>4</sup>;

X is selected from the group consisting of  $-\text{CH}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ ,  $-\text{C}(=\text{O})-$ ,  $-\text{S}-$ ,  $-\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{C}(\text{R})(\text{R}')-$ , and  $-\text{N}(\text{R})-$ , where R and R' =  $(\text{C}_1\text{--}\text{C}_6)$ alkyl, OR'', or H, and R'' = H or  $(\text{C}_1\text{--}\text{C}_6)$ alkyl;

when Ar is a phenyl or six-membered heteroaromatic ring system, X is positioned on ring Ar in a 1,4 relationship with respect to the -O-R<sup>2</sup> group;

when Ar is a 5-membered heteroaromatic ring system, X is positioned on ring Ar in a 1,3 relationship with respect to the  $-O-R^2$  group;

$R^4$  is independently selected from the group consisting of -H and  $-(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ ;

15 R<sup>5</sup> is independently selected from the group consisting of -H, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl and -(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl; and

$R^6$  is independently selected from the group consisting of -H,  $-(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ ,  $-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl$ , and heteroaryl:

wherein said heteroaryl is unsubstituted or substituted by  $-(C_1-C_6)\text{alkyl}$ .

20 More preferred compounds of the present invention are those of Formula I wherein:

$R^1$  is selected from the group consisting of cyclopropylmethyl, ethyl, propyl, allyl, isopentyl, benzyl, methoxyethyl, dimethylaminoethyl, 4-pyridylmethyl, 2-pyridylmethyl, 1-

5 pyrrolylethyl, 1-morpholinoethyl, cyclohexylmethyl, 2-pyrrolidylmethyl, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidylmethyl, 2-piperidylmethyl, N-methyl-2-piperidylmethyl, 3-thienylmethyl, 2-tetrahydrofuranyl methyl, (2-nitrothiophene-5-yl)methyl, (1-methyl-1H-imidazole-2-yl)methyl, (5-(acetoxymethyl)-2-furanyl)methyl, (2,3-dihydro-1H-isoindole-1-yl)methyl, and 5-(2-methylthiazolyl);

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of -CH<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, -CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, and CF<sub>3</sub>;

R<sup>4</sup> is -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl;

R<sup>5</sup> is selected from the group consisting of -H, -CH<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, -CH=CH<sub>2</sub> and -CH<sub>2</sub>-CH=CH<sub>2</sub>;

10 R<sup>6</sup> is selected from the group consisting of -CH<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, -CH=CH<sub>2</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>-CH=CH<sub>2</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH=CH<sub>2</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and 5-methyl-3-isoxazole;

Ar is a phenyl or six-membered heteroaromatic ring system, either of which may be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more moieties independently selected from the group consisting of (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, halogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, hydroxy and -OR<sup>4</sup>;

15 X is selected from the group consisting of -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -S-, -O-, -C(=O)-, -C(R)(R')-, and -N(R)-, where R and R' = (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, OR'', or H, and R'' = H or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl; and

X is positioned on ring Ar in a 1,4 relationship with respect to the -O-R<sup>2</sup> group.

20 Most preferred compounds of the present invention are those of Formula I wherein:

R<sup>2</sup> is -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>;

Ar is unsubstituted phenyl or pyridyl;

X is selected from the group consisting of -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -S-, -O-, -C(R)(R')-, and -N(R)-, where R and R' = (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, OR'', or H, and R'' = H or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl;

25 X is positioned on ring Ar in a 1,4 relationship with respect to the -O-R<sup>2</sup> group; and R<sup>4</sup> is methyl.

In certain preferred compounds, X is selected from the group consisting of CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)-, -C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-, -CH(OH)-, -NH-, and -N(CH<sub>3</sub>)-; most preferably CH(CH<sub>3</sub>).

30

We have now found that the compounds of the present invention, exhibit selective activity at the CB2 receptor site, and are useful in the relief of pain, particularly chronic pain, e.g., chronic inflammatory pain, neuropathic pain, back pain, cancer pain and visceral pain.

Compounds of the present invention will also be useful in treating acute pain. Additionally, compounds of the present invention are useful in other disease states in which degeneration or dysfunction of CB2 receptors is present or implicated.

5 Within the scope of the invention are also salts of the compounds of the formula I. Generally, pharmaceutically acceptable salts of compounds of the present invention may be obtained using standard procedures well known in the art, for example by reacting a sufficiently basic compound, for example an alkyl amine with a suitable acid, for example, HCl or acetic acid, to afford a physiologically acceptable anion. It may also be possible to 10 make a corresponding alkali metal (such as sodium, potassium, or lithium) or an alkaline earth metal (such as a calcium) salt by treating a compound of the present invention having a suitably acidic proton, such as a carboxylic acid or a phenol with one equivalent of an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal hydroxide or alkoxide (such as the ethoxide or methoxide), or a suitably basic organic amine (such as choline or meglumine) in an aqueous medium, followed 15 by conventional purification techniques.

Also within the scope of the present invention is use of compounds of the present invention in therapy.

20 The novel compounds of the present invention are useful in therapy, especially for the therapy of various pain conditions including, but not limited to: acute pain, chronic pain, neuropathic pain, acute pain, back pain, cancer pain, and visceral pain.

25 In use for therapy in a warm-blooded animal such as a human, a CB2 agonist will generally be administered in the form of a conventional pharmaceutical composition, and generally the composition may be in a form suitable for oral or sublingual administration, for example as a tablet or capsule, for parenteral injection (including intravenous, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravascular or infusion) for example as a sterile solution, suspension or emulsion, for topical administration for example as an ointment or cream or for rectal 30 administration for example as a suppository. In general, the above compositions may be prepared in a conventional manner using conventional carriers. The compositions of the present invention are advantageously presented in unit dosage form.

A therapeutically effective amount for the practice of the present invention may be determined, by the use of known criteria including the age, weight and response of the individual patient, and interpreted within the context of the disease which is being treated or which is being prevented, by one of ordinary skill in the art.

5

Also within the scope of the invention is the use of any compound according to formula I above, for the manufacture of a medicament for the therapy of pain.

10 Additionally provided is the use of any compound according to Formula I for the manufacture of a medicament for the therapy of various pain conditions including, but not limited to: acute pain, chronic pain, neuropathic pain, acute pain, back pain, cancer pain, and visceral pain.

15 A further aspect of the invention is a method for therapy of a subject suffering from any of the conditions discussed above, whereby an effective amount of a compound according to the formula I above, is administered to a patient in need of such therapy. Additionally, there is provided a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20

Particularly, there is provided a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for therapy, more particularly for therapy of pain.

25

Further, there is provided a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier use in any of the conditions discussed above. The term therapy within the context of the present invention means to administer a an effective amount of a compound of the present invention, to mitigate either a pre-existing 30 disease state, acute or chronic, or a recurring condition. This definition also encompasses prophylactic therapies for prevention of recurring conditions and continued therapy for chronic disorders.

### Pharmaceutical compositions

The novel compounds according to the present invention may be administered orally, sublingually, intramuscularly, subcutaneously, topically, intranasally, intraperitoneally, 5 intrathoracically, intravenously, epidurally, intrathecally, intracerebroventricularly and by injection into the joints.

Preferred routes of administration are orally, intravenously or intramuscularly.

The dosage will depend on the route of administration, the severity of the disease, age and weight of the patient and other factors normally considered by the attending physician, 10 when determining the individual regimen and dosage level as the most appropriate for a particular patient.

For preparing pharmaceutical compositions from the compounds of this invention, inert, pharmaceutically acceptable carriers can be either solid or liquid. Solid form 15 preparations include powders, tablets, dispersible granules, capsules, cachets, and suppositories.

A solid carrier can be one or more substances which may also act as diluents, flavoring agents, solubilizers, lubricants, suspending agents, binders, or tablet disintegrating agents; it can also be an encapsulating material.

In powders, the carrier is a finely divided solid which is in a mixture with the finely 20 divided active component. In tablets, the active component is mixed with the carrier having the necessary binding properties in suitable proportions and compacted in the shape and size desired.

For preparing suppository compositions, a low-melting wax such as a mixture of fatty acid glycerides and cocoa butter is first melted and the active ingredient is dispersed therein 25 by, for example, stirring. The molten homogeneous mixture is then poured into convenient sized molds and allowed to cool and solidify.

Suitable carriers include magnesium carbonate, magnesium stearate, talc, lactose, sugar, pectin, dextrin, starch, tragacanth, methyl cellulose, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, a low-melting wax, cocoa butter, and the like.

30 Salts include, but are not limited to, pharmaceutically acceptable salts. Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable salts within the scope of the present invention include: acetate, benzenesulfonate, benzoate, bicarbonate, bitartrate, carbonate, citrate, fumarate, gluconate, glutamate, hydrobromide, hydrochloride, lactate, maleate, mandelate, mesylate,

phosphate/diphosphate, salicylate, succinate, sulfate, tartrate, choline, diethanolamine, ethylenediamine, meglumine, aluminum, calcium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, and zinc.

Examples of pharmaceutically unacceptable salts within the scope of the present invention include: hydroiodide, perchlorate, tetrafluoroborate, lithium.

5 Preferred pharmaceutically acceptable salts are hydrochlorides, sulfates and bitartrates.

The hydrochloride and sulfate salts are particularly preferred.

The term composition is intended to include the formulation of the active component with encapsulating material as a carrier providing a capsule in which the active component (with or without other carriers) is surrounded by a carrier which is thus in association with it.

10 Similarly, cachets are included.

Tablets, powders, cachets, and capsules can be used as solid dosage forms suitable for oral administration.

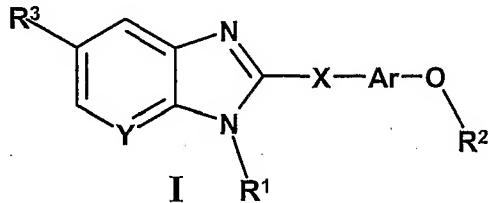
15 Liquid form compositions include solutions, suspensions, and emulsions. Sterile water or water-propylene glycol solutions of the active compounds may be mentioned as an example of liquid preparations suitable for parenteral administration. Liquid compositions can also be formulated in solution in aqueous polyethylene glycol solution.

20 Aqueous solutions for oral administration can be prepared by dissolving the active component in water and adding suitable colorants, flavoring agents, stabilizers, and thickening agents as desired. Aqueous suspensions for oral use can be made by dispersing the finely divided active component in water together with a viscous material such as natural synthetic gums, resins, methyl cellulose, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, and other suspending agents known to the pharmaceutical formulation art.

25 Preferably the pharmaceutical compositions is in unit dosage form. In such form, the composition is divided into unit doses containing appropriate quantities of the active component. The unit dosage form can be a packaged preparation, the package containing discrete quantities of the preparations, for example, packeted tablets, capsules, and powders in vials or ampoules. The unit dosage form can also be a capsule, cachet, or tablet itself, or it can be the appropriate number of any of these packaged forms.

Methods of preparationProcess A1

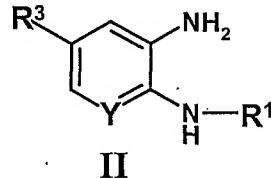
Process A1 for manufacture of compounds with the general Formula I



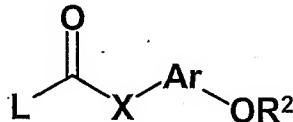
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comprises the following steps:

Compounds of the general Formula II



wherein R1, R3 and Y are as defined for Formula I, can be reacted with compounds of the  
10 general Formula III;



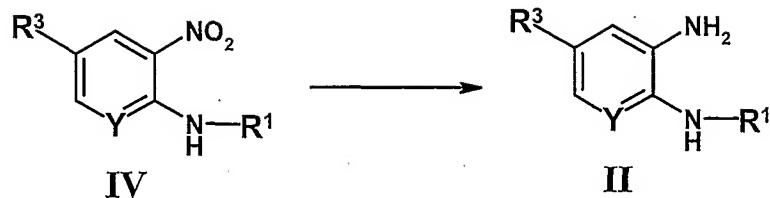
III

wherein R<sup>2</sup>, Ar, and X are as defined for Formula I and L is -OH or a leaving group such as a halide, O-tosyl, or O-mesyl. It is convenient to conduct this reaction in an inert solvent such as toluene at ambient temperature for 20 minutes. Following this, a catalytic amount of  
15 concentrated HCl is added and the mixture is heated for 12 hours at 85°C. Work-up is by aqueous extraction and purification of the product is by normal or reverse phase chromatography.

Process A2

20 Process A2 for manufacture of compounds with the general Formula II comprises the following steps:

Compounds of the general Formula IV

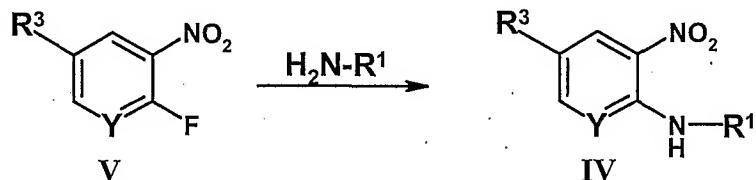


wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and Y are as defined for Formula I, can be reduced to the corresponding aniline (Formula II) by reaction with hydrogen under a pressure of 10-50 pounds per square inch. It is convenient to conduct this reaction in an inert solvent such as ethanol, methanol or tetrahydrofuran at ambient temperature. The reaction is catalyzed by a transition metal catalyst, conveniently 5-10% palladium on finely divided carbon.

### Process A3

Process A3 for manufacture of compounds with the general Formula IV comprises the following steps:

## Compounds of the general Formula V:

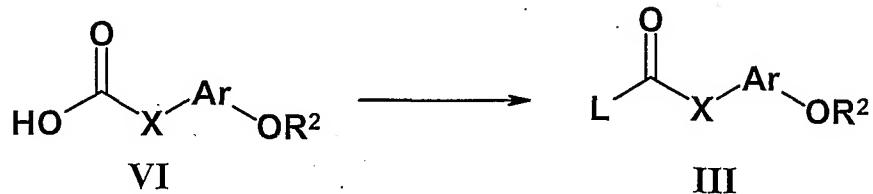


wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and Y are as defined for Formula I, is reacted with a primary amine. It is convenient to conduct this reaction in a protic solvent such as 80% ethanol at a 15 temperature of 50-100°C. Work-up is conveniently accomplished by aqueous extraction, and purification is conveniently performed by normal phase chromatography.

#### Process A4

Process A4 for manufacture of compounds with the general Formula III comprises the following steps:

### Compounds of the general Formula VI:



wherein R<sup>2</sup>, Ar, and X are as defined for Formula I and L is -OH or a leaving group such as a

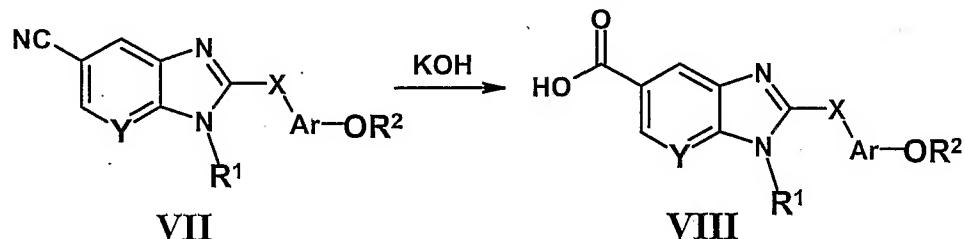
halide, O-tosyl, or O-mesyl, is reacted with a halogenating agent such as thionyl chloride. It is convenient to conduct this reaction in an inert solvent such as benzene or toluene at a temperature of 25-100°C. Work-up is conveniently accomplished by removing the solvent under reduced pressure and purification is conveniently performed by distillation.

5

### Process A5

Process A5 for manufacture of compounds with the general Formula VIII comprises the following steps:

### Compounds of the general Formula VII (prepared via process A1)



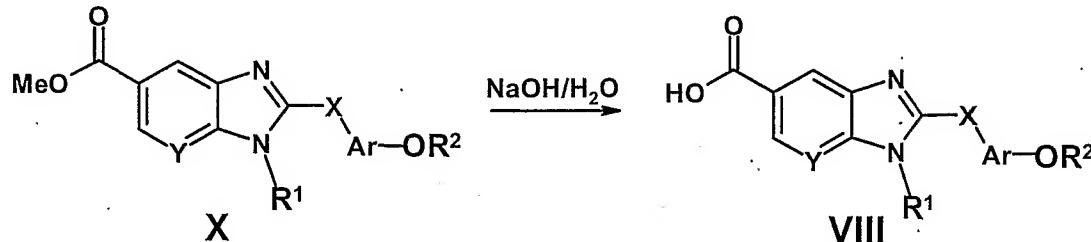
wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, Ar, X and Y are as defined for Formula I and are prepared via general processes described above, are hydrolyzed using KOH. This reaction is conveniently performed in an aqueous solvent mixture such as one to one ethanol/water at reflux temperature. After neutralization, the product is conveniently isolated by filtration of the cooled reaction mixture.

### Process A6

Alternately, Process A6 for manufacture of compounds with the general formula VIII comprises the following steps:

20

Compounds of general formula X (prepared via process A1);

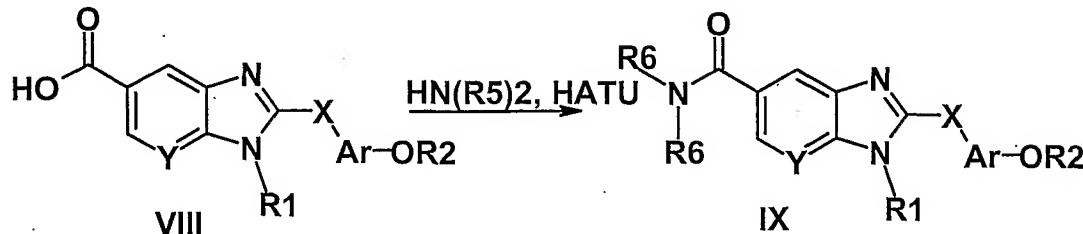


wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, Ar, X and Y are as defined for Formula I and are prepared via general processes described above, are converted to the corresponding carboxylic acid VIII by hydrolysis of the ester X using an aqueous base such as sodium hydroxide to the corresponding carboxylic acid.

### Process A7

Process A7 for manufacture of compounds with the general Formula IX comprises the following steps:

## 5 Compounds of Formula VIII

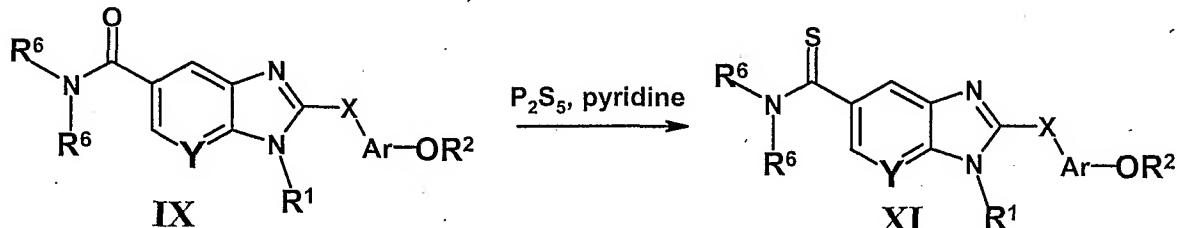


wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, Ar, X and Y are as defined for Formula I and are prepared via general processes described above are converted to the corresponding amide by reaction with a primary or secondary amine in the presence of an acid activating agent such as HATU [O-(7-azabenzotriazol-1-yl)-N,N,N',N'-tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate], HBTU [O-benzotriazol-1-yl)-N,N,N',N'-tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate ] or TBTU [O-(1H-Benzotriazol-1-yl)-N,N,N',N'-pentamethylene-uronium tetrafluoroborate]. The reaction is conveniently performed in a polar aprotic solvent such as DMF at ambient temperature in association with a tertiary amine such as triethyl amine or diisopropylethylamine which serves as an acid scavenger. The product is conveniently isolated by an aqueous extraction and purified by normal phase chromatography.

### Process A8

Process A8 for manufacture of compounds with the general Formula XI comprises the following steps:

### Compounds of Formula IX (prepared via Process A1 or A7);



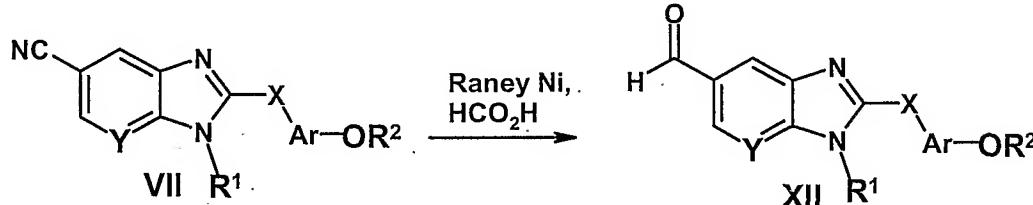
wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, Ar, X and Y are as defined for Formula I and are prepared via general processes described above, are converted to the corresponding thio amide (Formula XI) by reaction with P<sub>2</sub>S<sub>5</sub>. The reaction is conveniently performed in pyridine at a temperature of

100°. The product is conveniently isolated by an aqueous extraction of the decanted portion of the reaction mixture and purified by normal phase chromatography.

Process A9

5 Process A9 for manufacture of compounds with the general Formula XII comprises the following steps:

Compounds of formula VII (prepared via Process A1);



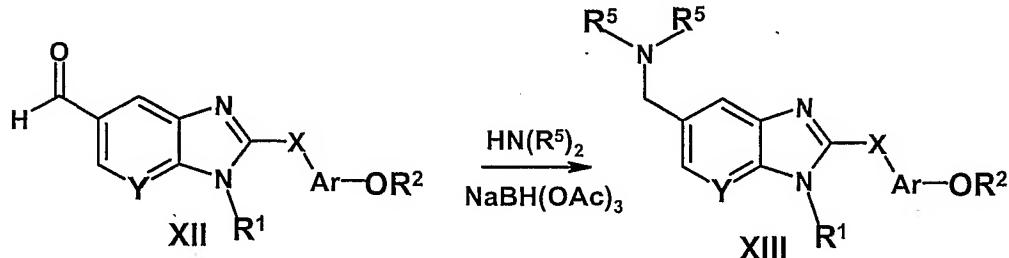
10 wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, Ar, X and Y are as defined for Formula I and are prepared via general processes described above, are catalytically reduced using a catalytic amount of Raney nickel in 50% aqueous formic acid. This reaction is conveniently performed in an acidic aqueous solvent mixture such as in 50% aqueous formic acid at 90°C. The product is conveniently isolated by filtration of the cooled reaction mixture through a pad of diatomaceous earth, concentration and purification via normal phase chromatography.

15

Process A10

Process A10 for manufacture of compounds with the general Formula XIII comprises the following steps:

Compounds of formula XII



20

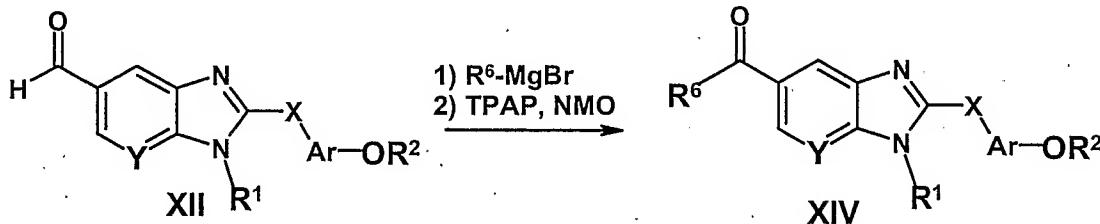
wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, Ar, X and Y are as defined for Formula I and are prepared via general processes described above, are reductively aminated using a primary or secondary amine in the presence of a suitable reducing agent such as sodium triacetoxyborohydride. This reaction is conveniently performed in tetrahydrofuran with 1-1.5 equivalents of acetic acid and 1-1.5 equivalents of sodium triacetoxyborohydride at ambient temperature. The product is

conveniently isolated by decomposition of the borate ester intermediate with 1 N HCl followed by an aqueous extraction. Concentration of the organic extract yields the crude product and purification is accomplished via normal phase chromatography.

5 Process A11

Process A11 for manufacture of compounds with the general Formula XIV comprises the following steps:

Compounds of formula XII

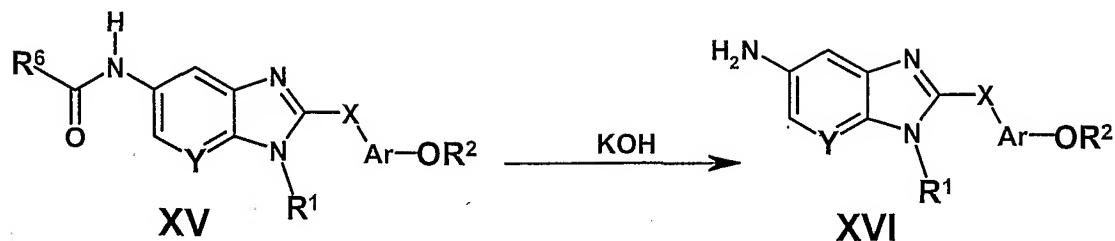


10 wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, Ar, and X are as defined for Formula I and are prepared via general processes described above, are coupled with an organometallic agent such as a Grignard reagent followed by oxidation of the intermediate alcohol to the ketone. The Grignard reaction is conveniently performed in tetrahydrofuran with six equivalents of an organomagnesium halide such as methyl magnesium bromide at 0°C. The product is conveniently isolated by 15 decomposition of excess organometallic reagent by adding water followed by an aqueous extraction and concentration of the organic extract. Oxidation of this intermediate alcohol is accomplished by reaction with a catalytic amount (about 5 mol%) of tetrapropylammonium perruthenate (TPAP) and 1-1.5 equivalents of N-methylmorpholine-N-oxide (NMO) in the presence of 4Å molecular sieves. This reaction is conveniently done in dichloromethane at 20 ambient temperature. The product is conveniently isolated by concentration of the reaction mixture and purification via normal phase chromatography.

Process A12

25 Process A12 for the manufacture of compounds with the general formula XVI comprises the following steps:

Compounds of the formula XV (which are prepared via process A1)

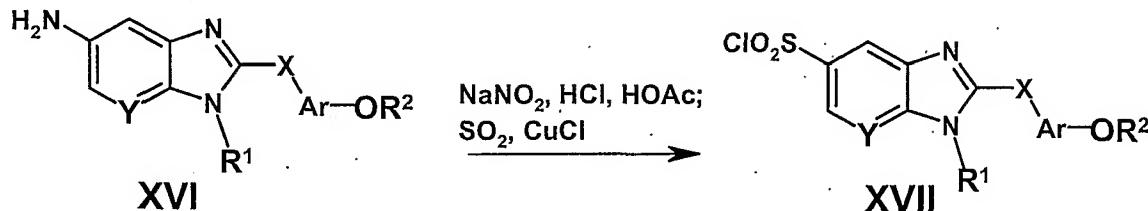


wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, Ar, X and Y are as defined for Formula I and are prepared via general processes described above are converted to the corresponding aniline by hydrolysis using a base such as potassium hydroxide in an aqueous solvent such as 50% aqueous ethanol. The 5 reaction is conveniently performed at reflux temperature over an extended period of time (8-16 hours). The product is conveniently isolated by allowing the reaction mixture to cool to ambient temperature, acidifying the mixture with 1 N HCl and collecting the precipitated product by filtration.

10 **Process A13**

Process A13 for the manufacture of compounds with the general formula XVII comprises the following steps:

Compounds of the formula XVI

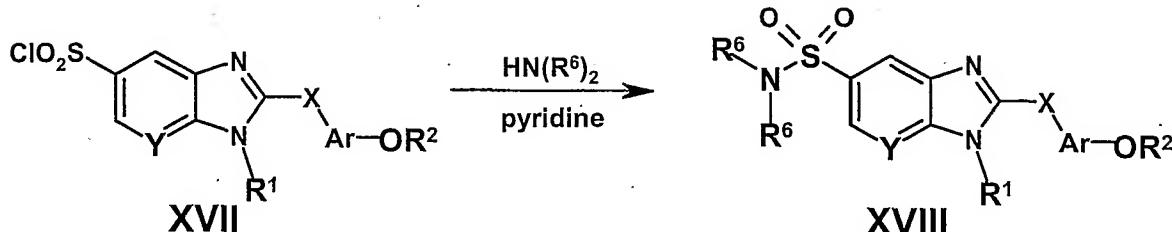


15 wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, Ar, X and Y are as defined for Formula I and are prepared via general processes described above are converted to the corresponding sulfonyl chloride by reaction with sodium nitrite in aqueous HCl and acetic acid to give the intermediate diazonium salt. This reaction is conveniently performed at <-10°C. This intermediate diazonium salt is immediately converted to the sulfonyl chloride by dropwise addition to a freshly prepared 20 saturated solution of sulfur dioxide in acetic acid in the presence of copper (I) chloride. This reaction is conveniently performed at between -10 and -5°C. The product is conveniently isolated by pouring the reaction mixture into ice water and extracting with dichloromethane and concentrating under vacuum. Sulfonyl chlorides of formula XVII are typically used without further purification.

Process A14

Process A14 for the manufacture of compounds of general formula XVIII comprises the following steps:

Compounds of formula XVII



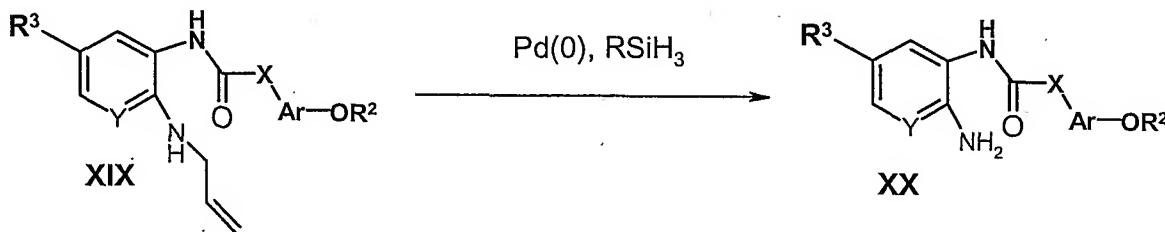
5

wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, Ar, and X are as defined for Formula I and are prepared via general processes described above are converted to the corresponding sulfonamide by reaction with a primary or secondary amine. The reaction is conveniently performed in a nonpolar solvent such as dichloromethane at ambient temperature in the presence of an acid scavenger such as pyridine. The product is conveniently isolated by an aqueous extraction and purified by normal phase chromatography.

Process A15

Process A15 for the manufacture of compounds of general formula XX comprises the following steps:

Compounds of formula XIX



wherein R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, Ar, X and Y are as defined for Formula I and are prepared using the above described Process A1 and are converted to compounds of formula XX by using palladium (0) mediated de-allylation reaction in the presence of a cation-scavenger, such as phenylsilane. The product is conveniently isolated by an aqueous extraction and purified by normal phase chromatography.

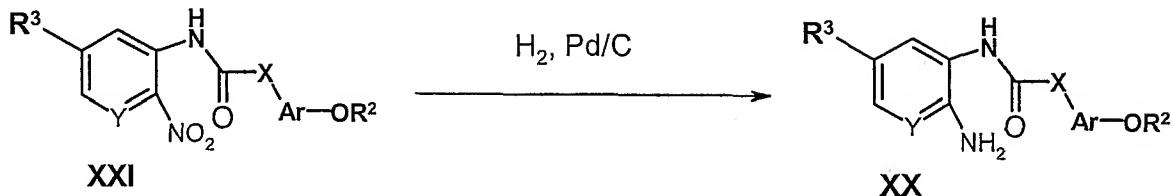
Process A16

Process A16 for the manufacture of compounds of general formula XX comprises the

25

following steps:

Compounds of formula XXI

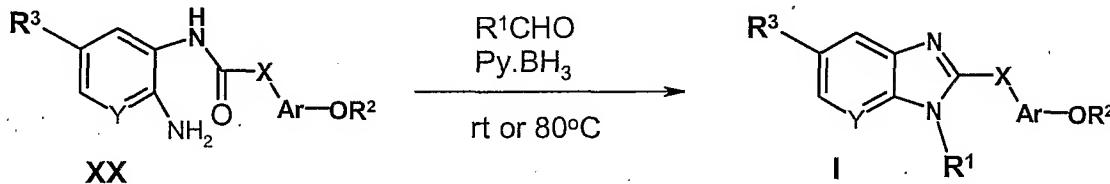


wherein  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , Ar, X and Y are as defined for Formula I and are prepared using the above described Process A2 and are converted to compounds of formula XX under a palladium catalysed hydrogenation condition. The product is conveniently isolated by filtration and purified by normal phase chromatography or used directly without chromatography purification.

**10** Process A17

Process A17 for the manufacture of compounds of general formula I comprises the following steps:

Compounds of formula XX



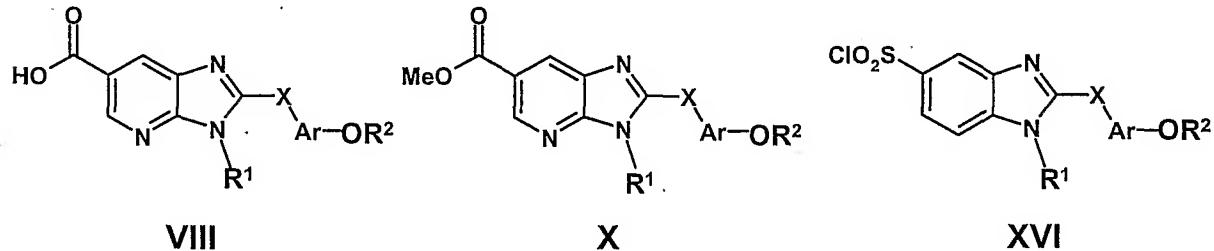
wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , Ar, X and Y are as defined for Formula I and are converted to the corresponding compounds of general formula I by reacting with an aldehyde followed by borane reduction, in a one-pot fashion. The reaction is conveniently performed in a mixed solvent such as 1,2-dichloroethane and acetic acid at ambient or elevated temperature. The product is conveniently isolated by an aqueous extraction and purified by normal phase chromatography or reverse phase chromatography.

Process A18

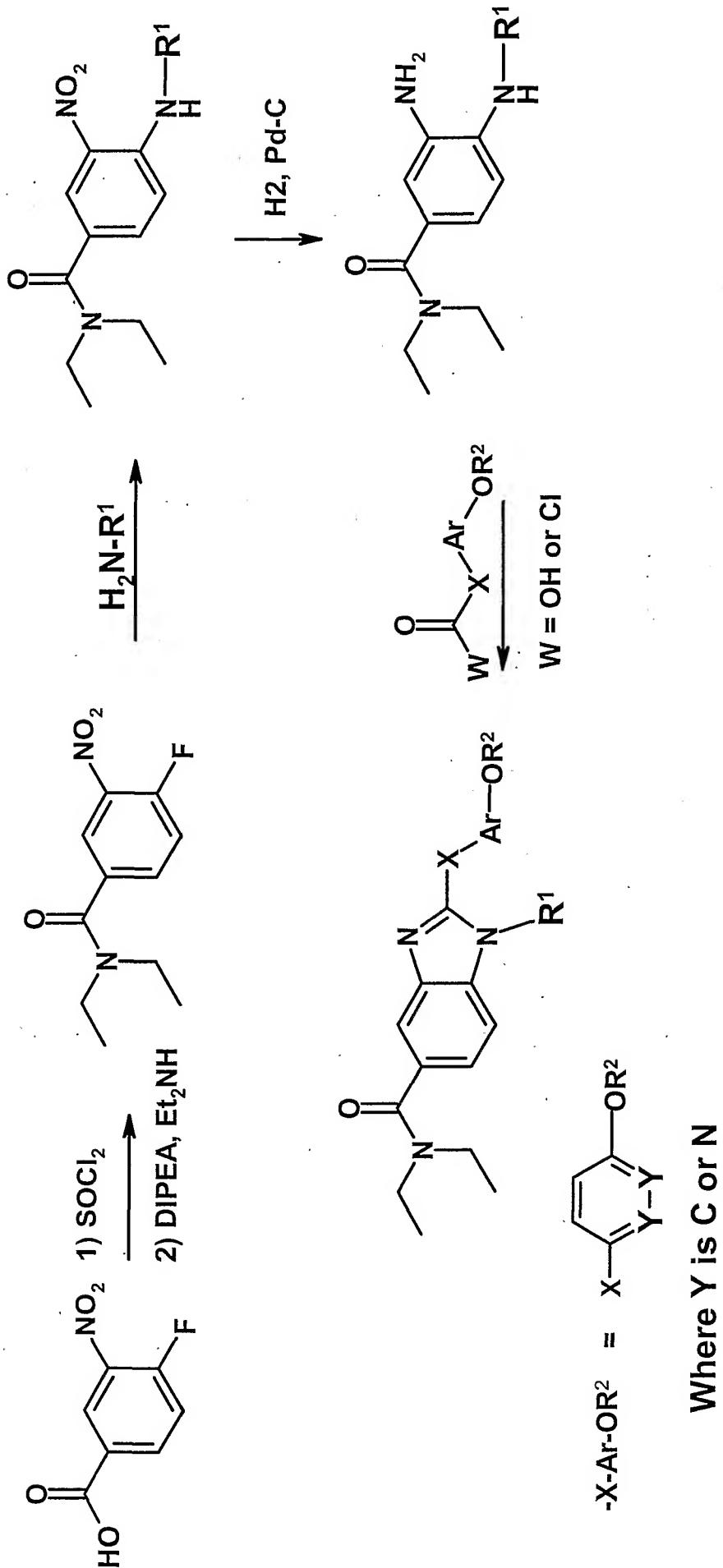
A further aspect of the invention is a method for selectively reducing a nitro moiety *ortho* to an amino substituent on a phenyl or pyridyl ring of a compound in the presence of a nitro moiety *para* to the amino substituent, comprising treating a solution of the compound in a solvent, preferably a non-polar solvent such as ethyl acetate, with a palladium catalyst, such as Pd/C in the presence of hydrogen, optionally under pressure (e.g., 1-10 atmospheres,

preferably 1-5 atmospheres, even more preferably 2-4 atmospheres of pressure). In certain embodiments, both nitro substituents are located *para* to the nitrogen of a pyridine ring. See Example 58B below for an exemplary protocol.

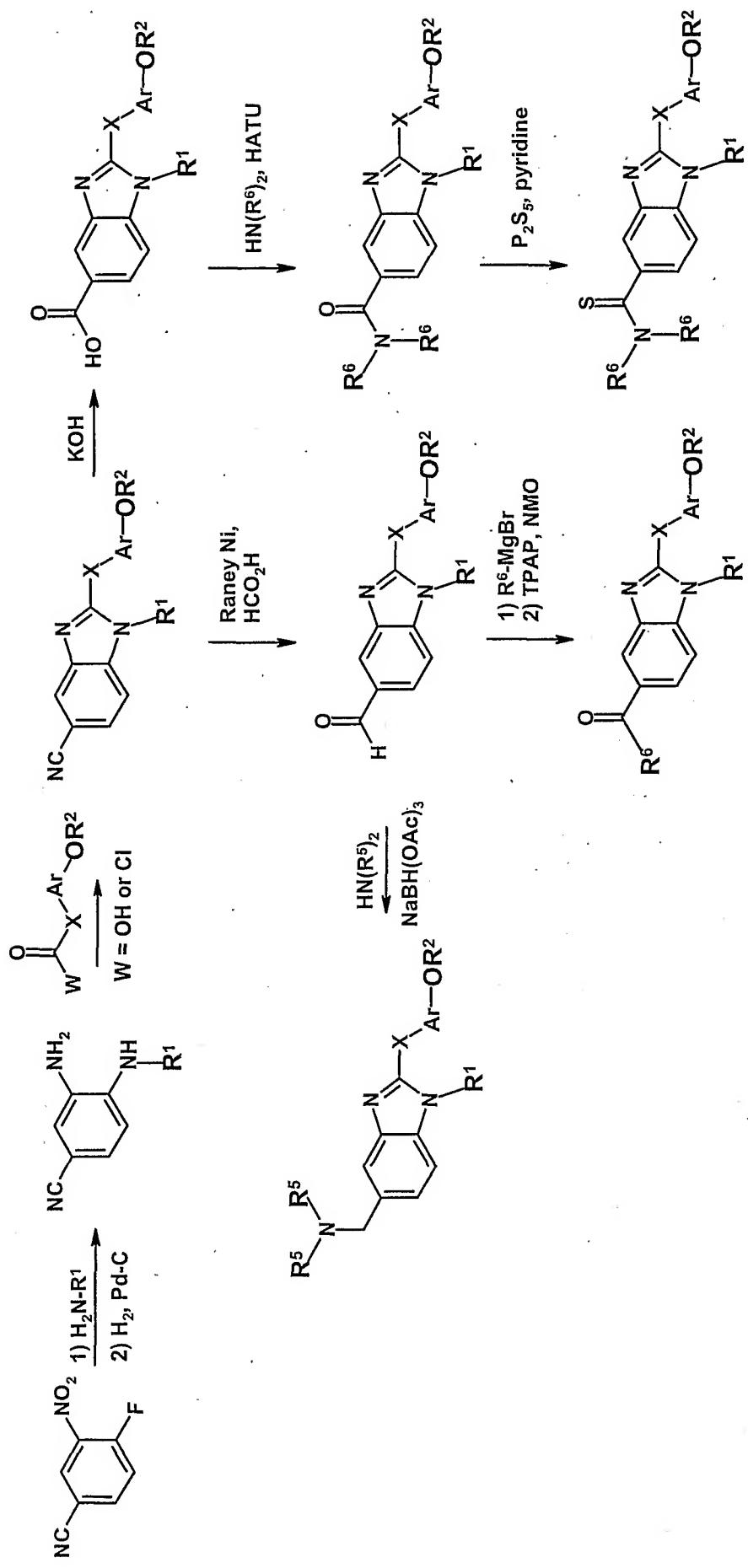
A further aspect of the present invention is intermediates of the general formulae VIII, 5 X and XIII, below, and their use in the synthesis of compounds of formula I.



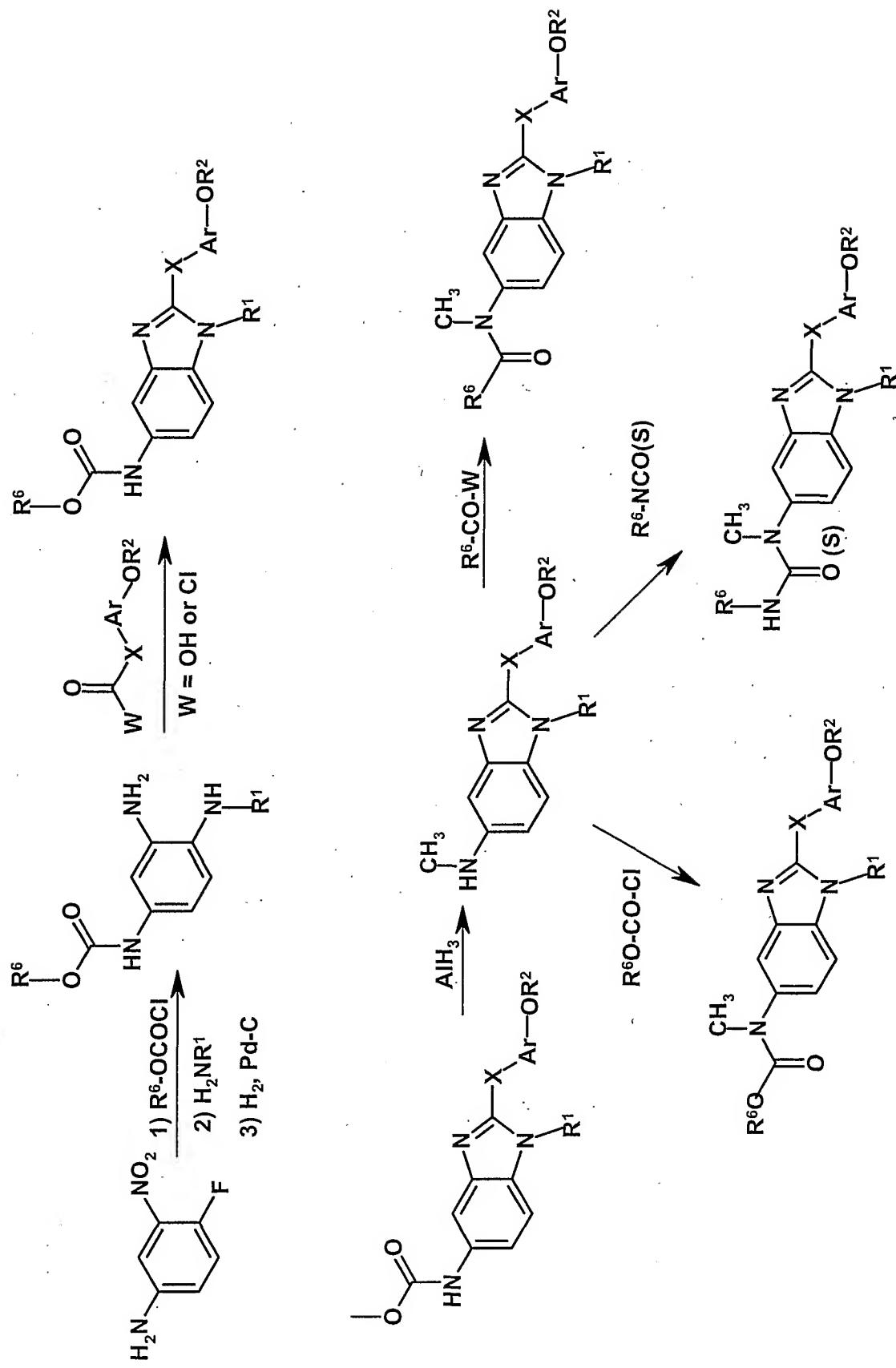
The compounds of the present invention may be synthesized according to the procedures described below in Schemes 1-15 on the following pages.



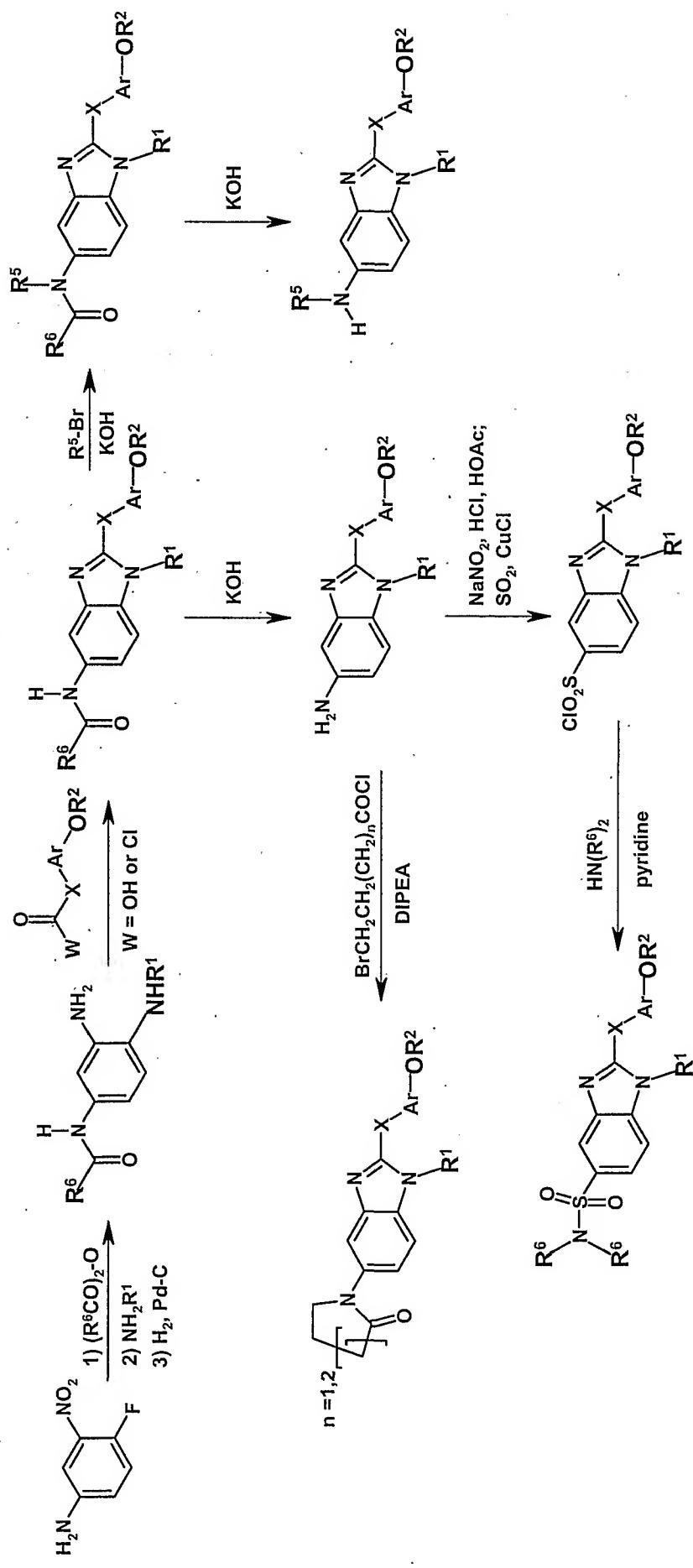
Scheme 1: Synthetic route for Examples 2-12 and 14-17



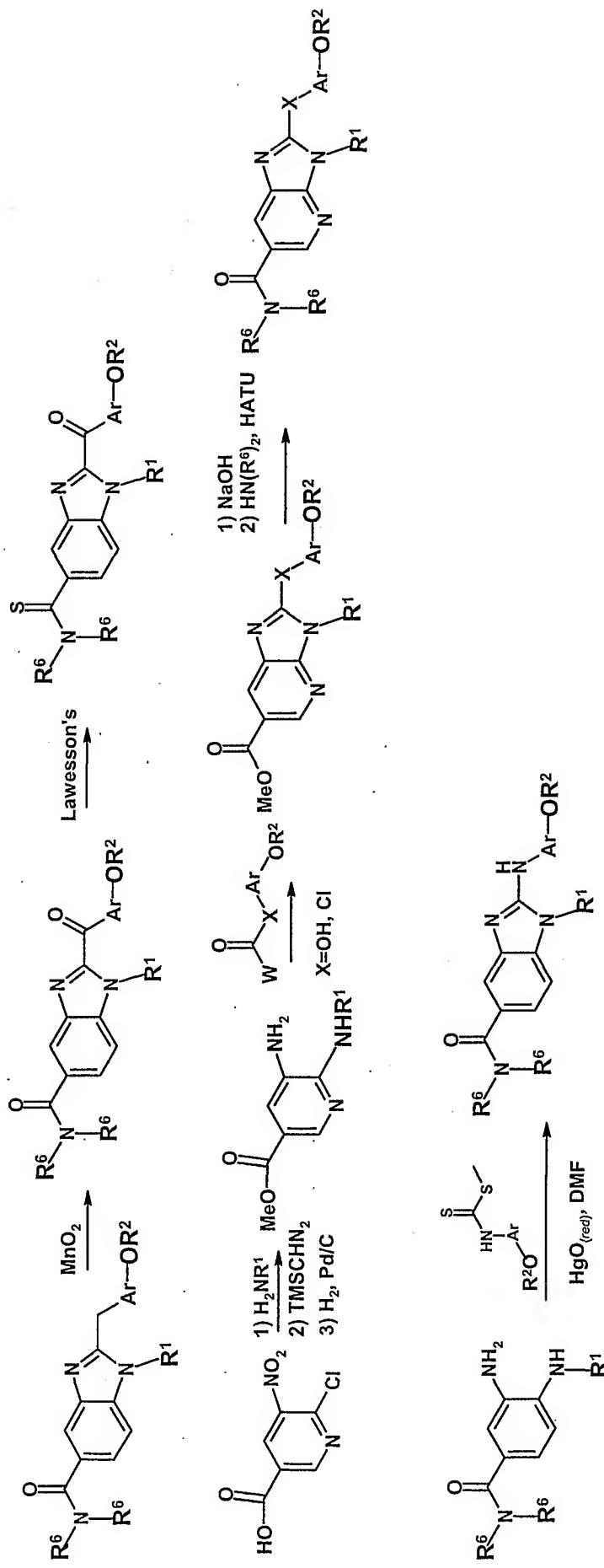
Scheme 2: Synthetic route for Examples 20-22 and 24-25.



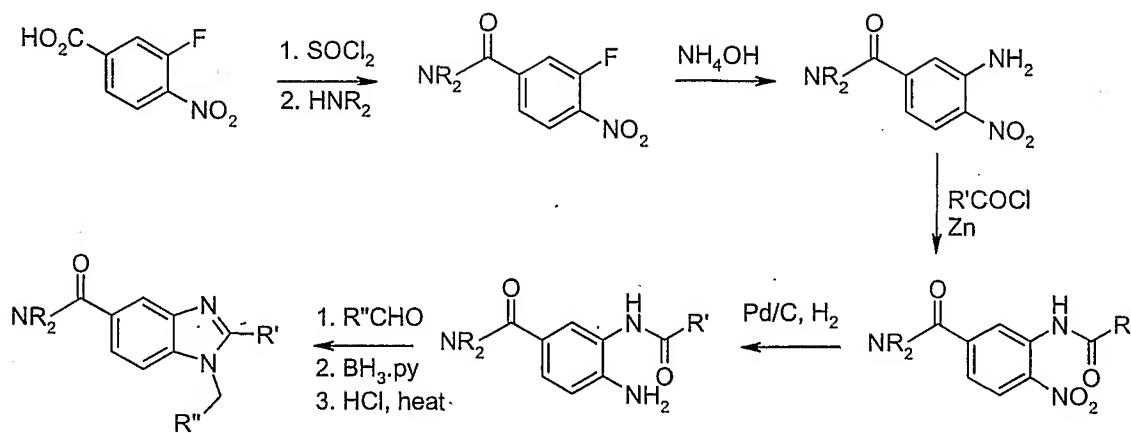
Scheme 3: Synthetic route to Examples 13, 23, 26-31 and 52-56.



Scheme 4: Synthetic route to Examples 32-36 and 51.

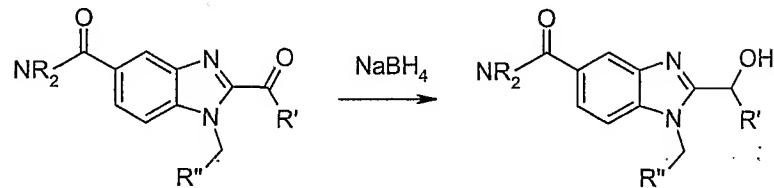


Scheme 5: Synthetic routes to Examples 18, 19, 35 and 39.

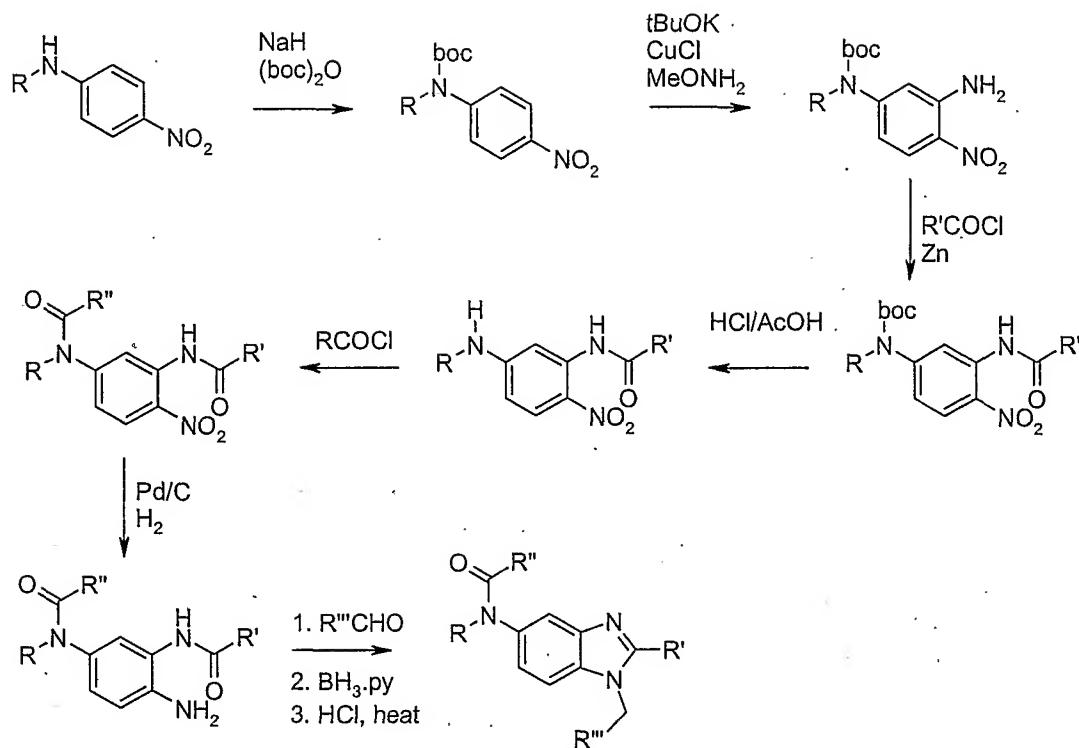


Scheme 6: Synthetic route to Examples 40-42 and 43-45.

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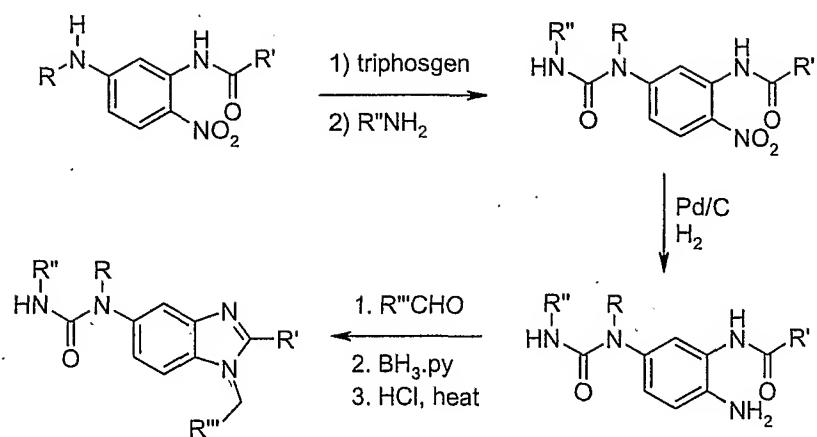


10 Scheme 7: Synthetic route to Example 46.



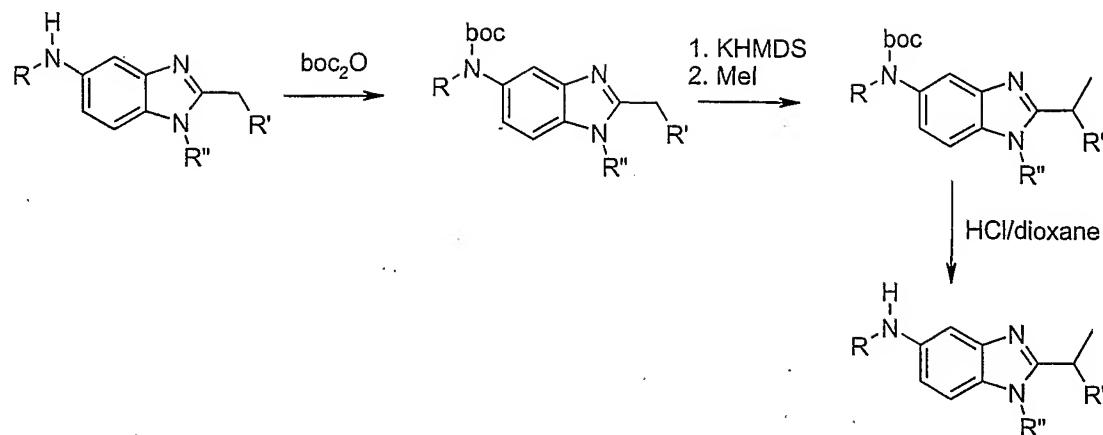
Scheme 8: Synthetic route to Examples 47-49.

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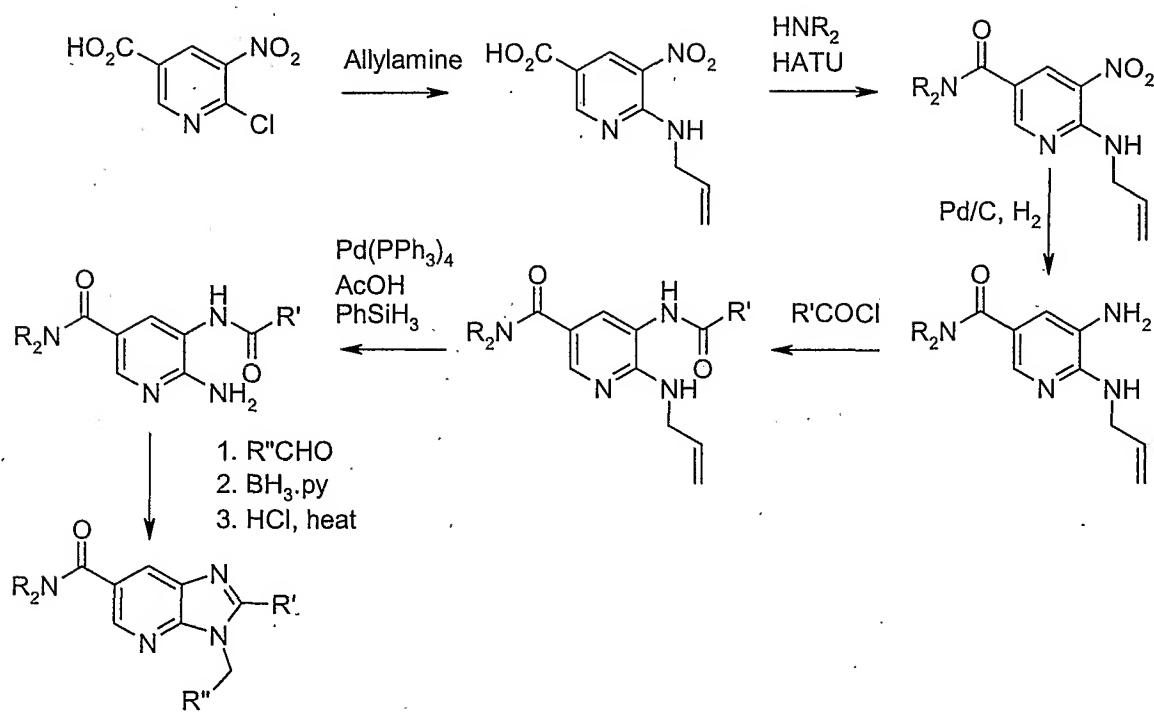
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Scheme 9: Synthetic route to Example 50.



Scheme 10: Synthetic route to Example 51.

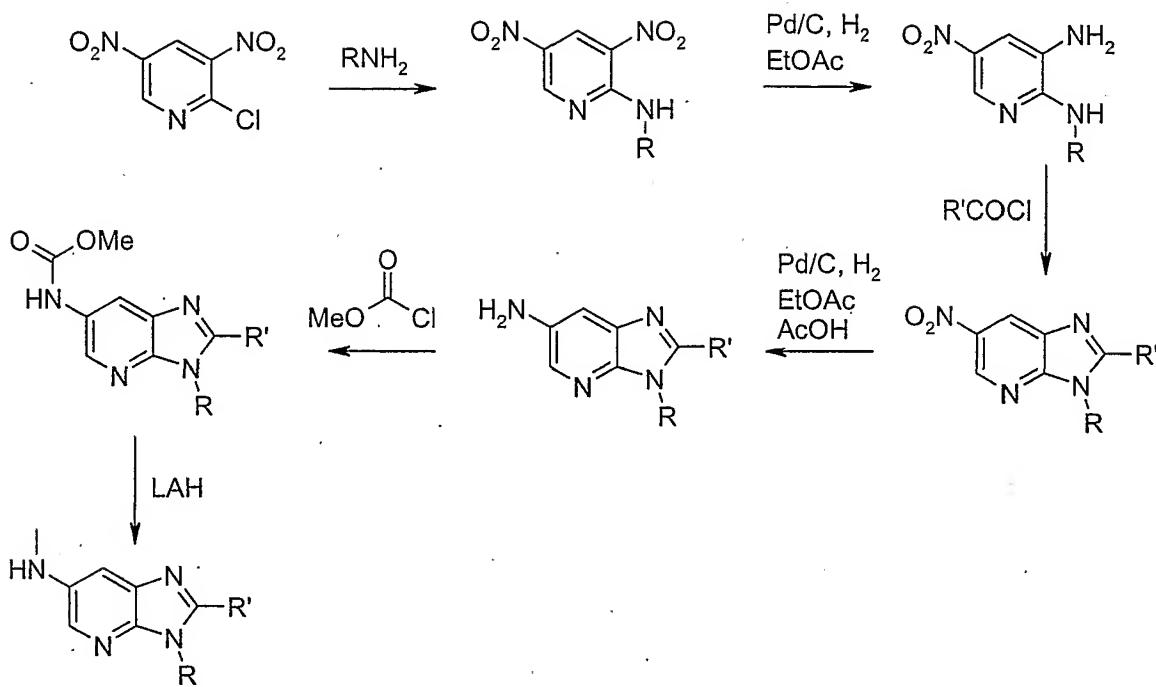
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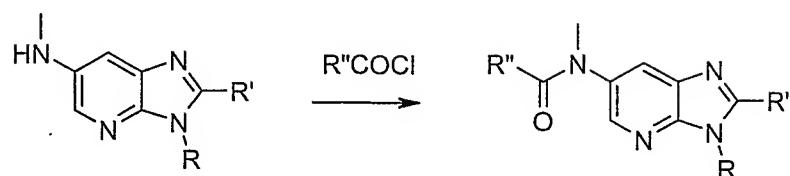
Scheme 11: Synthetic route to Example 57

31



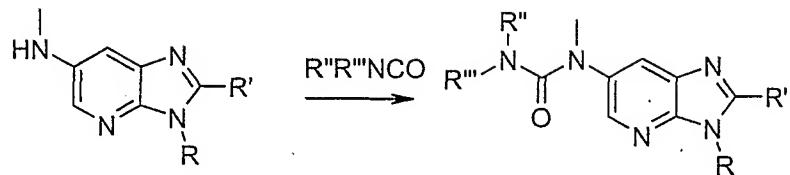
Scheme 12: Synthetic route to Example 58.

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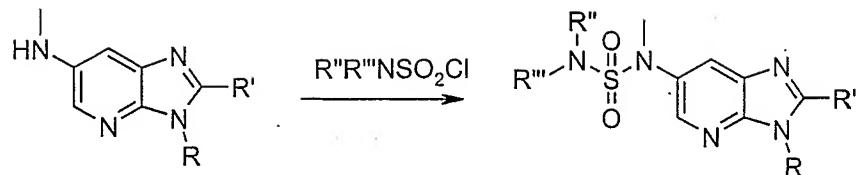
Scheme 13: Synthetic route to Example 59.

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Scheme 14: Synthetic route to Example 60.

15



**Scheme 15: Synthetic route to Examples 61 and 62.**

**EXAMPLES**

5 The invention will further be described in more detail by the following Examples which describe methods whereby compounds of the present invention may be prepared, purified, analyzed and biologically tested, and which are not to be construed as limiting the invention.

10 **Example 1: Biological Evaluation**

hCB1 and hCB2 receptor binding

Human CB1 (from Receptor Biology) or CB2 (from BioSignal) membranes are thawed at 37 °C, passed 3 times through a 25-gauge blunt-end needle, diluted in the cannabinoid binding buffer (50 mM Tris, 2.5 mM EDTA, 5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, and 0.5 mg/mL BSA fatty acid free, pH 7.4) and aliquots containing the appropriate amount of protein are distributed in 96-well plates. The IC<sub>50</sub> of compounds at hCB1 and hCB2 are evaluated from 10-point dose-response curves done with <sup>3</sup>H-CP55,940 at 20000 to 25000 dpm per well (0.17-0.21 nM) in a final volume of 300 µl. The total and non-specific binding are determined in the absence and presence of 0.2 µM of HU210 respectively. The plates are vortexed and incubated for 60 minutes at room temperature, filtered through Unifilters GF/B (presoaked in 0.1 % polyethyleneimine) with the Tomtec or Packard harvester using 3mL of wash buffer (50 mM Tris, 5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.5 mg BSA pH 7.0). The filters are dried for 1 hour at 55 °C. The radioactivity (cpm) is counted in a TopCount (Packard) after adding 65 µl/well of MS-20 scintillation liquid.

25

hCB1 and hCB2 GTPγS binding

Human CB1 (Receptor Biology) or CB2 membranes (BioSignal) are thawed at 37 °C, passed 3 times through a 25-gauge blunt-end needle and diluted in the GTPγS binding buffer (50 mM Hepes, 20 mM NaOH, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, pH 7.4, 0.1% BSA). The EC<sub>50</sub> and Emax of compounds are evaluated from 10-point dose-response curves

done in 300 $\mu$ l with the appropriate amount of membrane protein and 100000-130000 dpm of GTPg<sup>35</sup>S per well (0.11 –0.14 nM). The basal and maximal stimulated binding are determined in absence and presence of 1  $\mu$ M (CB2) or 10  $\mu$ M (CB1) Win 55,212-2 respectively. The membranes are pre-incubated for 5 minutes with 56.25  $\mu$ M (CB2) or 112.5  $\mu$ M (CB1) GDP prior to distribution in plates (15  $\mu$ M (CB2) or 30  $\mu$ M (CB1) GDP final). The plates are vortexed and incubated for 60 minutes at room temperature, filtered on Unifilters GF/B (presoaked in water) with the Tomtec or Packard harvester using 3 ml of wash buffer (50 mM Tris, 5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 50 mM NaCl, pH 7.0). The filters are dried for 1 hour at 55 °C. The radioactivity (cpm) is counted in a TopCount (Packard) after adding 65  $\mu$ l/well of MS-20 scintillation liquid. Antagonist reversal studies are done in the same way except that (a) an agonist dose-response curve is done in the presence of a constant concentration of antagonist, or (b) an antagonist dose-response curve is done in the presence of a constant concentration of agonist. Biological data for selected compounds is listed in Table 1 below.

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Table 1: Biological Data for Selected Compounds from Examples 1-39.

Ex. #	Name	Ki(hCB2) nM	EC50, hCB2; nM (%Emax)
5	Methyl 3-[5-[(diethylamino) carbonyl]-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl) -1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-propanoate	142	65(53%)
7	1-{2-[Acetyl(methyl)amino] ethyl}-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)- <i>N,N</i> -diethyl-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazole-5-carboxamide	858	380(63%)
11	1-[2-(Dimethylamino)-1-methylethyl]-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)- <i>N,N</i> -diethyl-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazole-5-carboxamide	751	85(64%)
13	1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-[(6-ethoxy-3-pyridinyl)methyl]- <i>N,N</i> -diethyl-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.	133	97(93%)
24	1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-5-(4-morpholinylmethyl)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazole	178	81(62%)
26	Methyl-1-(cyclopropyl-methyl)-2-(4-	430	295(41%)

	ethoxybenzyl)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-5-yl carbamate		
33	<i>N</i> -Allyl-1-(cyclopropyl- methyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1 <i>H</i> -benz-imidazol-5-amine	308	146(54%)
39	2-(4-Ethoxyanilino)- <i>N,N</i> -diethyl-1-isopentyl-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazole-5-carboxamide	98	64 (64%)

**Example 2:****2-(4-Methoxybenzyl)-*N,N*-diethyl-1-[2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl]-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.**5 2A: *N,N*-diethyl-4-fluoro-3-nitrobenzamide:

A stirred solution of 4-fluoro-3-nitrobenzoic acid (25.0 g, 135 mmol) and thionyl chloride (40.0 mL, 548 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (40 mL) was refluxed until starting materials were consumed. The solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*, co-evaporating with toluene (2 x 20 mL). The acyl chloride thus obtained was dissolved in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (60 mL) and cooled to 0 °C before the addition of diisopropylethylamine (DIPEA)(28.2 mL, 162 mmol) and diethylamine (14.0 mL, 135 mmol) under vigorous stirring. After 2 hours at room temperature, the solvent was evaporated *in vacuo* and the resulting oil was dissolved in  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (200 mL), washed with 5% NaOH (3 x 100 mL), 5%  $\text{KHSO}_4$  (100 mL) and brine (100 mL). The organic layer was dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered and evaporated *in vacuo*. The crude oil was dissolved in  $\text{EtOAc}$  (10 mL) and, after overnight (O/N) at -20 °C, the bright orange solid was filtered, washed with cold  $\text{EtOAc}$  (5 mL) and cold hexanes (10 mL) to provide the title compound (19.6 g). The filtrate was evaporated and crystallized similarly in  $\text{EtOAc}$  (2 mL) to provide another 6.7g of the title compound (80.5%) as a bright orange solid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.11 (dd,  $J=7.6\text{Hz}$ ,  $J=1.8\text{Hz}$ , 1H), 7.71-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.36 (dd,  $J=10.8\text{Hz}$ ,  $J=8.4\text{Hz}$ , 1H), 3.56 (br s, 2H), 3.28 (br s, 2H), 1.22 (br s, 6H).

2B: *N,N*-diethyl-4- {[2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl]amino}-3-nitrobenzamide.

A mixture of *N,N*-diethyl-4-fluoro-3-nitrobenzamide (1.00 g, 4.16 mmol), 2-(4-morpholinyl)ethanamine (0.600 mL, 4.58 mmol) in 80% aq.  $\text{EtOH}$  (50 mL) was refluxed for 4 hours. The reaction was then concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was taken up into  $\text{EtOAc}$  (40 mL). The organic phase was washed with saturated  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  (2 x 10 mL), and the

combined aqueous phases were extracted with additional EtOAc (2 x 20 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to provide the title compound. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (100% EtOAc to 5% triethylamine/EtOAc) to provide the title compound (1.12 g, 77%) as a bright 5 yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.67 (s, 1H), 8.28 (d, *J*=1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (dd, *J*=8.8 Hz, *J*=1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (t, *J*=5.2 Hz, 4H), 3.55-3.20 (br m, 6H), 2.74 (t, *J*=6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.53 (br s, 4H), 1.22 (t, *J*=6.8 Hz, 6H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 351.

2C: 3-amino-*N,N*-diethyl-4- {[2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl]amino}benzamide.

10 A mixture of *N,N*-diethyl-4- {[2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl]amino}-3-nitrobenzamide (1.10 g, 3.14 mmol) and 10% Pd/C in MeOH (50 mL) was hydrogenated for 2 hours at 40 psi. After the reaction was complete, the reaction mixture was filtered through diatomaceous earth. Removal of solvent provided the title compound (0.958 g, 95%) which was used without further purification. MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 321.

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2D: 2-(4-Methoxybenzyl)-*N,N*-diethyl-1-[2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl]-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.

20 (4-methoxyphenyl)acetyl chloride (0.063 g, 0.343 mmol) was added to 3-amino-*N,N*-diethyl-4- {[2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl]amino} benzamide (0.100 g, 0.312 mmol) in acetic acid (2 mL) and the mixture was stirred at 95 °C overnight. The reaction was then concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was taken up into EtOAc (15 mL). The organic phase was washed with 1 N NaOH (2 x 8 mL) and the combined aqueous phases were extracted with additional EtOAc (2 x 15 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by reverse-phase high pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) to provide the title compound as a trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) salt 25 (0.132 g, 53%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 7.74 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.64 (t, *J*=7.6 Hz, 2H), 4.36 (s, 2H) 3.76 (br s, 2H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.35 (br s, 4H), 3.20 (br s, 6H), 1.07 (br s, 6H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 451. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>34</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + 3.0 TFA + 0.6 H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 47.84; H, 4.79; N, 30 6.97. Found: C, 47.83; H, 4.83; N, 6.96.

**Example 3:****2-(4-Ethoxybenzyl)-N,N-diethyl-1-(2-methoxyethyl)-1H-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.****3A: N,N-diethyl-4-[(2-methoxyethyl)amino]-3-nitrobenzamide.**

Following general procedure 2B: A mixture of *N,N*-diethyl-4-fluoro-3-nitrobenzamide (0.200 g, 0.833 mmol), 2-methoxyethanamine (0.065 mL, 0.757 mmol) in 80% aq. EtOH (5 mL) was heated at 90 °C overnight. After work-up, the crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (33% EtOAc/Hexanes to 50% EtOAc/Hexanes) to provide the title compound (0.191 g, 85%) as a bright yellow solid.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.34 (s, 1H), 8.28 (d,  $J=2.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.56 (dd,  $J=8.4$  Hz,  $J=1.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d,  $J=9.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.69 (t,  $J=5.6$  Hz, 2H), 3.53 (q,  $J=5.6$  Hz, 2H), 3.44 (s overlapping with br s, 7H), 1.22 (t,  $J=6.4$  Hz, 6H). MS (ESI) ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ )<sup>+</sup> = 296

**3B: 3-amino-*N,N*-diethyl-4-[(2-methoxyethyl)amino].**

Following general procedure 2C: A mixture of *N,N*-diethyl-4-[(2-methoxyethyl)amino]-3-nitrobenzamide (0.150 g, 0.508 mmol) and 10% Pd/C in EtOAc (15 mL) was hydrogenated overnight at 40 psi. Usual work-up provided the title compound (0.159 g) which was used without further purification.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  6.86 (dd,  $J=8.4$  Hz,  $J=2.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d,  $J=1.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d,  $J=8.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.66 (t,  $J=5.6$  Hz, 2H), 3.41 (s overlapping with br s, 7H), 3.31 (t,  $J=5.6$  Hz, 2H), 1.18 (t,  $J=7.6$  Hz, 6H). MS (ESI) ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ )<sup>+</sup> = 266.

**3C: (4-ethoxyphenyl)acetyl chloride.**

To a stirred solution of (4-ethoxyphenyl)acetic acid (10.0 g, 55.5 mmol) in benzene (100 mL) was added thionyl chloride (50 mL, 68.5 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 2 hours. The solvent was evaporated *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by distillation (bp 86 °C, 0.4 Torr) to provide the title compound (10.39 g, 94%) as a yellow oil. MS of methyl ester: MS (ESI) ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ )<sup>+</sup> = 194.

**3D: 2-(4-Ethoxybenzyl)-N,N-diethyl-1-(2-methoxyethyl)-1H-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.**

Following general procedure 2D: (4-ethoxyphenyl)acetyl chloride (0.107 g, 0.539 mmol) was added to 3-amino-*N,N*-diethyl-4-[(2-methoxyethyl)amino]benzamide (0.130 g, 0.490 mmol) in toluene (2.5 mL). After 20 minutes, one drop of conc. HCl was added and the

mixture was heated at 85 °C for 12 hours. After usual work-up, the crude product was purified by reverse-phase HPLC to provide the title compound as a TFA salt (0.120 g, 36%) as an oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 7.86 (d, *J*=9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1), 7.43 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d, *J*=9.2 Hz, 2H), 4.60 (t, *J*=4.8 Hz, 2H), 4.47 (s, 2H), 3.97 (q, *J*=7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.57 (m, 2H), 3.40 (br s, 2H), 3.20 (br s, 2H), 3.15 (s, 3H), 1.28 (t, *J*=7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.07 (br s, 6H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 411. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + 2.2 TFA + 0.6 H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 50.82; H, 5.17; N, 6.26. Found: C, 50.85; H, 5.30; N, 6.06.

**Example 4:**

10 **1-[2-(Acetylamino)ethyl]-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-N,N-diethyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.**

4A: 4-{[2-(acetylamino)ethyl]amino}-N,N-diethyl-3-nitrobenzamide.

Following general procedure 2B: A mixture of *N,N*-diethyl-4-fluoro-3-nitrobenzamide (0.200 g, 0.833 mmol), *N*-(2-aminoethyl)acetamide (0.077 g, 0.757 mmol) in 80% aq. EtOH (5 mL) was heated at 90 °C overnight. After work-up, the crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (100% EtOAc to 5% MeOH/ EtOAc) to provide the title compound (0.152 g, 63%) as a bright yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.27 (d overlapping with br s, *J*=2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (dd, *J*=8.4 Hz, *J*=2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J*=9.2 Hz, 1H), 6.06 (br s, 1H), 3.58-3.50 (m, 4H), 3.44 (br s, 4H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 1.22 (t, *J*=7.2 Hz, 6H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 323.

4B: 4-{[2-(acetylamino)ethyl]amino}-3-amino-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide.

Following general procedure 2C: A mixture of 4-{[2-(acetylamino)ethyl]amino}-*N,N*-diethyl-3-nitrobenzamide (0.150 g, 0.465 mmol) and 10% Pd/C in EtOAc (15 mL) was hydrogenated overnight at 40 psi. Usual work-up provided the title compound (0.164 g, 100%) which was used without further purification. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 6.83 (dd, *J*=8.0 Hz, *J*=2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, *J*=2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.26 (br t, 1H), 3.53 (q, *J*=5.6 Hz, 2H), 3.43 (br s, 4H), 3.23 (t, *J*=5.6 Hz, 2H), 1.99 (s, 3H), 1.17 (t, *J*=6.4 Hz, 6H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 293.

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4C: 1-[2-(Acetylamino)ethyl]-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-N,N-diethyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.

Following general procedure 2D: (4-ethoxyphenyl)acetyl chloride (0.097 g, 0.490 mmol) was added to 4-{{[2-(acetylamino)ethyl]amino}-3-amino-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide (0.130 g, 0.445 mmol) in toluene (2.5 mL). After 20 minutes, one drop of HCl conc. was added and the mixture was heated at 85 °C for 12 hours. After usual work-up, the crude product was 5 purified by reverse-phase HPLC to provide the title compound as a TFA salt (0.042 g, 14%) as a tan solid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  8.01 (t,  $J$ =5.6 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d,  $J$ =8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1), 7.45 (d,  $J$ =8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d,  $J$ =8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d,  $J$ =8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.43 (m, 4H), 3.97 (q,  $J$ =7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.40 (br s, 2H), 3.38 (t,  $J$ =4.8 Hz, 2H), 3.20 (br s, 2H), 3.15 (s, 3H), 1.61 (s, 3H), 1.28 (t,  $J$ =7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.06 (br s, 6H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 437. Anal. Calcd for 10 C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>32</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + 2.1 TFA + 0.8 H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 50.80; H, 5.21; N, 8.11. Found: C, 50.87; H, 5.87; N, 8.09.

**Example 5:**

**Methyl 3-[5-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]propanoate.**

15 5A: Ethyl 3-{{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]-2-nitroanilino}propanoate.

Following general procedure 2B: A mixture of *N,N*-diethyl-4-fluoro-3-nitrobenzamide (0.200 g, 0.833 mmol), ethyl 3-aminopropanoate (0.116 g, 0.757 mmol) in 80% aq. EtOH (5 mL) was heated at 90 °C overnight. After work-up, the crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (50% EtOAc/Hexanes to 100% EtOAc) to provide the title 20 compound (0.162 g, 63%).  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.34 (br t,  $J$ =5.6 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (d,  $J$ =2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (dd,  $J$ =8.4 Hz,  $J$ =2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d,  $J$ =9.2 Hz, 1H), 4.21 (q,  $J$ =7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.69 (q,  $J$ =6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.44 (br s, 4H), 2.72 (t,  $J$ =6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.30 (t,  $J$ =6.4 Hz, 3H), 1.22 (t,  $J$ =6.8 Hz, 6H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 338.

25 5B: Ethyl 3-{{2-amino-4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]anilino}propanoate.

Following general procedure 2C: A mixture of ethyl 3-{{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]-2-nitroanilino}propanoate (0.150 g, 0.445 mmol) and 10% Pd/C in EtOAc (15 mL) was hydrogenated overnight at 40 psi. Usual work-up provided the title compound (0.158 g) which was used without further purification.  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.86 (dd,  $J$ =8.4 Hz,  $J$ =2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d,  $J$ =2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d,  $J$ =8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (q,  $J$ =7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.46 (t and overlapping br s,  $J$ =5.6 Hz, 6H), 2.66 (t,  $J$ =6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.28 (t,  $J$ =7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.18 (t,  $J$ =6.8 Hz, 6H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 308.

5C: Methyl 3-[5-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]propanoate.

Following general procedure 2D: (4-ethoxyphenyl)acetyl chloride (0.092 g, 0.465 mmol) was added to ethyl 3-{2-amino-4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]anilino}propanoate (0.130 g, 0.423 mmol) in toluene (2.5 mL). After 20 minutes, one drop of HCl conc. was added and the mixture was heated at 85 °C for 12 hours. After work-up, the crude product was purified by reverse-phase HPLC (which was accompanied by trans-esterification with MeOH) to provide the title compound as a TFA salt (0.084 g, 30%) as an oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 7.88 (d, *J*=9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.59 (t, *J*=6.4 Hz, 2H), 4.49 (s, 2H), 3.97 (q, *J*=6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 3.40 (br s, 2H), 3.16 (br s, 2H), 2.77 (t, *J*=6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.28 (t, *J*=7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.07 (br s, 6H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 438. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> + 1.8 TFA + 0.8 H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 52.27; H, 5.28; N, 6.39. Found: C, 52.31; H, 5.22; N, 6.37.

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#### Example 6:

##### 1-(2-Aminoethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-*N,N*-diethyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.

6A: *tert*-Butyl 2-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]-2-nitroanilino}ethylcarbamate.

Following general procedure 2B: A mixture of *N,N*-diethyl-4-fluoro-3-nitrobenzamide (0.200 g, 0.833 mmol), *tert*-butyl 2-aminoethylcarbamate (0.121 g, 0.757 mmol) in 80% aq. EtOH (3 mL) was heated at 85 °C overnight. After work-up, the crude product was purified by recrystallization from EtOAc to provide the title compound (0.165 g, 57%) as a bright yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.31 (br s, 1H), 8.29 (d, *J*=1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (dd, *J*=9.6 Hz, *J*=2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J*=9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.83 (br s, 1H), 3.55-3.40 (m, 8H), 1.47 (s, 9H), 1.22 (t, *J*=7.6 Hz, 6H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 381.

6B: *tert*-butyl 2-{2-amino-4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]anilino}ethylcarbamate.

Following general procedure 2C: A mixture of *tert*-butyl 2-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]-2-nitroanilino}ethylcarbamate (0.155 g, 0.407 mmol) and 10% Pd/C in EtOAc (15 mL) was hydrogenated overnight at 40 psi. Usual work-up provided the title compound (0.164 g) which was used without further purification. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 6.85 (dd, *J*=8.4 Hz, *J*=1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, *J*=2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d, *J*=7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.87 (br s, 1H),

3.48-3.38 (br s, 6H), 3.27 (t,  $J=5.6$  Hz, 2H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 1.18 (t,  $J=6.8$  Hz, 6H). MS (ESI) ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> = 351.

6C: 1-(2-Aminoethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-*N,N*-diethyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.

Following general procedure 2D: (4-ethoxyphenyl)acetyl chloride (0.085 g, 0.424 mmol) was added to *tert*-butyl 2-{2-amino-4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]anilino}ethylcarbamate (0.135 g, 0.385 mmol) in toluene (2.5 mL). After 20 minutes, one drop of HCl conc. was added and the mixture was heated at 85 °C for 12 hours. After work-up, the crude product was purified by reverse-phase HPLC to provide the title compound as a TFA salt (0.123 g, 44%) as a white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  7.91 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.57 (dd,  $J=8.4$  Hz,  $J=2.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 2H), 4.75 (t,  $J=6.8$  Hz, 2H), 4.55 (s, 2H), 4.03 (q,  $J=6.8$  Hz, 2H), 3.58 (br s, 2H), 3.36 (t,  $J=6.4$  Hz, 2H), 3.29 (br s, 2H), 1.37 (t,  $J=6.4$  Hz, 3H), 1.27 (br s, 3H), 1.12 (br s, 3H). MS (ESI) ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> = 395. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> + 2.8 TFA + 0.8 H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 47.17; H, 4.76; N, 7.69 Found: C, 47.16; H, 4.80; N, 7.52.

#### Example 7:

#### 1-{2-[Acetyl(methyl)amino]ethyl}-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-*N,N*-diethyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.

To a solution of the product 6C, the TFA salt of 1-(2-aminoethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-*N,N*-diethyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide (0.085 g, 0.117 mmol), triethylamine (0.070 mL, 0.50 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 mL) was added acetyl chloride (0.015 g, 0.200 mmol) and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 minutes. The mixture was washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, brine and the organic phase was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*.

The above crude product was dissolved in dimethylformamide (DMF) (2 mL), NaH (60% dispersion in oil, 0.005 g, 0.217 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 minutes. The solvent was evaporated *in vacuo* and the residue was taken up into EtOAc. The organic phase was washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by reverse-phase HPLC to provide the title compound as a TFA salt (0.017 g, 26%) as a white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  7.97 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d,  $J=7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 2H), 4.66 (t,  $J=6.0$  Hz, 2H), 4.60 (s, 2H), 4.02 (q,  $J=7.1$  Hz,

2H), 3.72 (t,  $J=6.0$  Hz, 2H), 3.56 (br, 2H), 3.28 (br, 4H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 1.79 (s, 3H), 1.36 (t,  $J=8.6$  Hz, 3H), 1.25 (br, 3H), 1.10 (br, 3H). MS (ESI) ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> = 451.

**Example 8:**

5 **2-(4-Ethoxybenzyl)-*N,N*-diethyl-1-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.**

8A: *N,N*-diethyl-4-(methylamino)-3-nitrobenzamide.

Following general procedure 2B: A mixture of *N,N*-diethyl-4-fluoro-3-nitrobenzamide (0.125 g, 0.521 mmol), methylamine hydrochloride (0.035 g, 0.521 mmol) in 80% aq. EtOH (3 mL) was heated at 85 °C for 4 hours. Usual work-up provided the title compound (0.130 g, 100%) which was used without further purification. MS (ESI) ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> = 252.

8B: 3-amino-*N,N*-diethyl-4-(methylamino)benzamide.

Following general procedure 2C: A mixture of *N,N*-diethyl-4-(methylamino)-3-nitrobenzamide (0.130 g, 0.517 mmol) and 10% Pd/C in EtOAc (10 mL) was hydrogenated at 15 40 psi. Usual work-up provided the title compound (0.124 g) which was used without further purification. MS (ESI) ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> = 222.

8C: 2-(4-Ethoxybenzyl)-*N,N*-diethyl-1-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.

Following general procedure 2D: (4-ethoxyphenyl)acetyl chloride (0.119 g, 0.596 mmol) was added to 3-amino-*N,N*-diethyl-4-(methylamino)benzamide (0.120 g, 0.542 mmol) in acetic acid (2 mL) and the mixture was stirred at 90 °C overnight. After work-up, the crude product was purified by reverse-phase HPLC to provide the title compound as a TFA salt (0.087 g, 26%) as a red oil. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 7.90 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 2H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 3.98 (q,  $J=7.6$  Hz, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.42 (br s, 2H), 3.14 (br s, 2H), 1.28 (t,  $J=6.8$  Hz, 3H), 1.11 (br s, 3H), 1.04 (br s, 3H). MS (ESI) ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> = 366. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub> + 2.1 TFA + 0.2 H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 51.71; H, 4.89; N, 6.91. Found: C, 51.73; H, 4.82; N, 6.93.

**Example 9:**

30 **2-(4-Ethoxybenzyl)-*N,N*-diethyl-1-(2-phenylethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.**

9A: *N,N*-diethyl-3-nitro-4-[(2-phenylethyl)amino]benzamide.

Following general procedure 2B: A mixture of *N,N*-diethyl-4-fluoro-3-nitrobenzamide (0.125 g, 0.521 mmol), 2-phenylethanamine (0.065 mL, 0.521 mmol) in 80% aq. EtOH (3 mL) was heated at 85 °C for 4 hours. Usual work-up provided the title compound (0.170 g, 96%) which was used without further purification. MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 342.

5

9B: 3-amino-*N,N*-diethyl-4-[(2-phenylethyl)amino]benzamide.

Following general procedure 2C: A mixture of *N,N*-diethyl-3-nitro-4-[(2-phenylethyl)amino]benzamide (0.170 g, 0.498 mmol) and 10% Pd/C in EtOAc (10 mL) was hydrogenated at 40 psi. Usual work-up provided the title compound (0.156 g) which was used without further purification. MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 312.

9C: 2-(4-Ethoxybenzyl)-*N,N*-diethyl-1-(2-phenylethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.

Following general procedure 2E: (4-ethoxyphenyl)acetyl chloride (0.105 g, 0.530 mmol) was added to 3-amino-*N,N*-diethyl-4-[(2-phenylethyl)amino]benzamide (0.150 g, 0.482 mmol) in acetic acid (2 mL) and the mixture was stirred at 90 °C overnight. After work-up, the crude product was purified by reverse-phase HPLC to provide the title compound as a TFA salt (0.100 g, 36%) as a purple solid. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 7.74 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J*=7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 5H), 7.10 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.56 (t, *J*=7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.23 (s, 2H), 3.97 (q, *J*=6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.40 (br s, 2H), 3.19 (br s, 2H), 2.86 (t, *J*=7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.28 (t, *J*=6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.08 (br s, 6H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 456. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub> + 1.0 TFA + 0.2 H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 64.96; H, 6.05; N, 7.33. Found: C, 65.05; H, 6.09; N, 7.29.

#### Example 10:

25 2-(4-Ethoxybenzyl)-*N,N*-diethyl-1-[2-(1-piperidinyl)ethyl]-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.

10A: *N,N*-diethyl-3-nitro-4-[(2-(1-piperidinyl)ethyl)amino]benzamide.

Following general procedure 2B: A mixture of *N,N*-diethyl-4-fluoro-3-nitrobenzamide (1.0 g, 4.2 mmol), 2-(1-piperidinyl)ethanamine (0.564 mL, 3.96 mmol) in 80% aq. EtOH (30 mL) was heated at 85 °C for 10 hours. After the usual work-up, the crude mixture was dissolved in 1 N HCl (40 mL) and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 x 10 mL). The aqueous layer was basified with 5 N NaOH (10 mL) and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 10 mL). The combined

organic phases were dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to provide the title compound (0.800 g, 57%) as a bright yellow solid which was used without further purification.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.64 (br s, 1H), 8.25 (d,  $J=2.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d,  $J=8.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d,  $J=8.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.41 (br s, 4H), 3.35 (br s, 2H), 2.64 (br s, 2H), 2.53 (br s, 4H), 5 1.61 (br s, 4H), 1.44 (br s, 2H), 1.19 (t,  $J=7.0$  Hz, 6H).

10B: 3-amino-*N,N*-diethyl-4-{{[2-(1-piperidinyl)ethyl]amino}benzamide.

Following general procedure 2C: A mixture of *N,N*-diethyl-3-nitro-4-{{[2-(1-piperidinyl)ethyl]amino}benzamide (0.800 g, 2.30 mmol) and 10% Pd/C in EtOAc (30 mL) 10 was hydrogenated for 24 hours at 30 psi. Usual work-up provided the title compound (0.724 g, 99%) which was used without further purification.

10C: 2-(4-Ethoxybenzyl)-*N,N*-diethyl-1-[2-(1-piperidinyl)ethyl]-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.

15 Following general procedure 2D: A solution of 1 M (4-ethoxyphenyl)acetyl chloride in toluene (0.095 mL, 0.095 mmol) was added to 3-amino-*N,N*-diethyl-4-{{[2-(1-piperidinyl)ethyl]amino}benzamide (0.027 g, 0.856 mmol) in toluene (1.0 mL). After 20 minutes, one drop of HCl conc. was added and the mixture was heated at 85 °C overnight. After work-up, the crude product was purified by reverse-phase HPLC to provide the title 20 compound as a TFA salt (0.026 g, 39%).  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  7.89 (d,  $J=8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d,  $J=7.6$  Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d,  $J=7.2$  Hz, 2H), 4.52 (s, 2H), 4.02 (q,  $J=7.6$  Hz, 2H), 3.56 (br s, 4H), 3.34 (t,  $J=7.6$  Hz, 2H), 3.28 (br s, 4H), 3.00 (br s, 2H), 1.88 (br s, 4H), 1.53 (br s, 2H), 1.36 (t,  $J=6.4$  Hz, 3H), 1.25 (br s, 3H), 1.11 (br s, 3H). 25 MS (ESI) ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ )<sup>+</sup> = 463. Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{38}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2 + 2.6$  TFA + 0.5  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ : C, 51.92; H, 5.46; N, 7.29. Found: C, 51.94; H, 5.43; N, 7.25.

**Example 11:**

**1-[2-(Dimethylamino)-1-methylethyl]-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-*N,N*-diethyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.**

30 11A: 4-{{[2-(dimethylamino)-1-methylethyl]amino}-*N,N*-diethyl-3-nitrobenzamide.

A mixture of *N,N*-diethyl-4-fluoro-3-nitrobenzamide (0.500 g, 2.08 mmol),  $N^1,N^1$ -dimethyl-1,2-propanediamine (0.636 g, 6.24 mmol), DIPEA (2.2 mL, 12.5 mmol) and DMF

(12 mL) was stirred 4 hours at room temperature. The reaction was then concentrated *in vacuo*, the residue was dissolved in 2 N NaOH (30 mL) and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 40 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (10 mL) dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude reaction mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography (100% CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> to 5% MeOH/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) to provide the title compound (0.621 g, 93%) as a bright yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.33 (d, *J*=6.4 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, *J*=2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (dd, *J*=8.8 Hz, *J*=2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J*=9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (heptet, *J*=7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (br d, *J*=5.2 Hz, 4H), 2.55 (dd, *J*=12.0 Hz, *J*=7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (dd, *J*=12.4 Hz, *J*=5.8 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (s, 6H), 1.69 (br s, 1H), 1.31 (d, *J*=6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.22 (t, *J*=7.4 Hz, 6H).  
MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 323.

11B: 3-amino-4-{{[2-(dimethylamino)-1-methylethyl]amino}-N,N-diethylbenzamide.

Following general procedure 2C: A mixture of 4-{{[2-(dimethylamino)-1-methylethyl]amino}-N,N-diethyl-3-nitrobenzamide (0.516 g, 1.60 mmol) and 10% Pd/C in EtOAc (20 mL) was hydrogenated overnight at 35 psi. Usual work-up provided the title compound (0.408 g, 87%) which was used without further purification. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 6.82 (dd, *J*=8.0 Hz, *J*=2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, *J*=2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.52-3.36 (m, 6H), 2.52 (dd, *J*=12.0 Hz, *J*=9.6 Hz, 2H), 2.28-2.19 (m, 7H), 1.17 (m, 8H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 293.

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11C: 1-[2-(Dimethylamino)-1-methylethyl]-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-N,N-diethyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.

Following general procedure 2D: A solution of 1 M (4-ethoxyphenyl)acetyl chloride in toluene (0.095 mL, 0.095 mmol) was added to 3-amino-4-{{[2-(dimethylamino)-1-methylethyl]amino}-N,N-diethylbenzamide (0.025 g, 0.0856 mmol) in toluene (1.0 mL). After 20 minutes, one drop of conc. HCl was added and the mixture was heated at 85 °C overnight. After work-up, the crude product was purified by reverse-phase HPLC to provide the title compound as a TFA salt (0.024 g, 38%). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 7.96 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J*=7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (m, 2H), 6.94 (m, 2H), 5.20 (br s, 1H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 4.03-3.95 (m, 3H), 3.77 (dd, *J*=14.0 Hz, *J*=5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (br s, 2H), 3.28 (m, 2H), 2.81 (s, 6H), 1.56 (d, *J*=6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.35 (t, *J*=6.4 Hz, 3H), 1.25 (br s, 3H), 1.14 (br s, 3H).

MS (ESI)  $(M+H)^+ = 437$ . Anal. Calcd for  $C_{26}H_{36}N_4O_2 + 2.5$  TFA + 0.7  $H_2O$ : C, 50.71; H, 5.48; N, 7.63. Found: C, 50.76; H, 5.46; N, 7.61.

**Example 12:**

5 **1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-*N,N*-diethyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.**

12A: 4-[(Cyclopropylmethyl)amino]-*N,N*-diethyl-3-nitrobenzamide.

Following general procedure 2B: *N,N*-diethyl-4-fluoro-3-nitrobenzamide (0.823 g, 3.42 mmol) and cyclopropylmethanamine (0.39 mL, 4.50 mmol) in 80% aqueous ethanol (17 mL) were stirred at 85 °C for 16 h. The crude product (1.00 g), an orange solid, was used in subsequent steps.  $^1H$ -NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  8.23 (d,  $J=2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.55 (dd,  $J=9.2$  Hz,  $J=2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d,  $J=9.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.47 (br s, 3H), 3.31 (q,  $J=2.0$  Hz, 2H), 3.27 (d,  $J=6.4$  Hz, 2H), 1.23 (overlapping t and m,  $J=7.0$  Hz, 7H), 0.68-0.60 (m, 2H), 0.40-0.34 (m, 2H). MS (ESI)  $(M+H)^+ = 292$ .

15

12B: 3-Amino-4-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide.

Following general procedure 2C, 4-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]-*N,N*-diethyl-3-nitrobenzamide (1.00 g) was hydrogenated for 24 h to give the title compound (0.889 g) as a greenish-tan solid. The crude product was used in subsequent steps.  $^1H$ -NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  6.72-6.78 (m, 2H), 6.58 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.43 (br s, 4H), 2.99 (d,  $J=6.4$  Hz, 2H), 1.18 (overlapping br t and m,  $J=6.4$  Hz, 7H), 0.59-0.52 (m, 2H), 0.30-0.24 (m, 2H). MS (ESI)  $(M+H)^+ = 262$ .

25

12C: 1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-*N,N*-diethyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.

Following general procedure 2D: (4-ethoxyphenyl)acetyl chloride (0.109 g, 0.547 mmol) was added 3-amino-4-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide (0.130 g, 0.497 mmol) in acetic acid (2 mL) and the mixture was stirred at 90 °C overnight. After work-up, the crude product was purified by reverse-phase HPLC to provide the title compound as a TFA salt (0.042 g, 14%) as an oil.  $^1H$ -NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  7.59 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.30 (s, 1H), 7.08 (d,  $J=7.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d,  $J=9.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.53 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 2H), 4.14 (s, 2H), 3.97 (d,  $J=7.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.60 (q,  $J=6.4$  Hz, 2H), 3.04 (br s, 2H), 2.80 (br s, 2H), 0.90 (t,  $J=6.4$  Hz,

3H), 0.78 (br m, 7H), 0.10-0.03 (m, 4H). MS (ESI) ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> = 406. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{25}H_{31}N_3O_2 + 1.9$  TFA: C, 55.60; H, 5.33; N, 6.75. Found: C, 55.51; H, 5.25; N, 6.74.

**Example 13:**

5 **1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-[(6-ethoxy-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-*N,N*-diethyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.**

13A: (6-ethoxy-3-pyridinyl)acetic acid.

To a stirred solution of (6-chloro-3-pyridinyl)acetic acid (0.094 g, 0.545 mmol) in EtOH (1.6 mL) was added 3.1 M EtONa in EtOH (0.7 mL, 2.17 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C room temperature for 24 hours after which an excess of NaH (60% dispersion in oil) was added together with 1 mL EtOH and heating at 100 °C was continued for 96 h. The solvent was evaporated *in vacuo* and the residue was taken up into diethyl ether (5 mL). The organic phase was washed with diluted HCl (2 x 2 mL) and brine (2 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to provide the title compound (0.081 g, 82%) as a pale brown solid, which was used without further purification. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 10.06 (br s, 1H), 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J*=9.2Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J*=8.4Hz, 1H), 4.30 (q, *J*=6.1Hz, 2H), 3.58 (s, 2H) 1.38 (t, *J*=8.0, 3H). MS (ESI) ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> = 182.

13B: 1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-[(6-ethoxy-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-*N,N*-diethyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.

To a stirred solution of (6-ethoxy-3-pyridinyl)acetic acid (0.081 g, 0.448 mmol) in DMF (2 mL) was added O-(7-azabenzotriazol-1-yl)-*N,N,N',N'*-tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate (HATU) (0.178 g, 0.468 mmol) and DIPEA (0.156 mL, 0.895 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. 3-amino-4-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide (0.111 g, 0.448 mmol) was added and the resulting mixture was stirred 1 hour at room temperature. The mixture was diluted with EtOAc (15 mL), washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (8 mL) and then brine (8 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo* to give a crude amide which was used without further purification.

30 The above crude intermediate was dissolved in acetic acid (5 mL) and the mixture was heated at 90 °C overnight. The reaction mixture was concentrated and the residue was taken up into EtOAc (15 mL). The organic phase was washed with 1 N NaOH (2 x 8 mL) and then brine (8 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified

by silica gel column chromatography (2% MeOH/ EtOAc) to provide the title compound (0.111g, 65%) as a pale brown solid.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.05 (s, 1H), 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.30 (m, 2H), 6.68 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.32 (qd,  $J=7.2$  Hz,  $J=2.2$  Hz, 2H), 4.25 (s, 2H), 3.55 (br s, 2H), 3.38 (br s, 2H), 1.38 (td,  $J=6.8$  Hz,  $J=2.0$  Hz, 3H), 1.22 (br s, 6H), 1.12-1.03 (m, 1H), 0.60-0.54 (m, 2H), 0.33-0.28 (m, 2H). MS (ESI) ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+ = 407$ .  
5 Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2 + 0.2 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$ : C, 70.63; H, 7.01; N, 13.73. Found: C, 70.83; H, 7.50; N, 13.67.

**Example 14:**

10 **1-[2-(Dimethylamino)ethyl]-2-[2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)ethyl]- $N,N$ -diethyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.**

14A: 4-{[2-(Dimethylamino)ethyl]amino}- $N,N$ -diethyl-3-nitrobenzamide.

Following general procedure 2B,  $N,N$ -diethyl-4-fluoro-3-nitrobenzamide (0.534 g, 2.22 mmol) and  $N^1,N^1$ -dimethyl-1,2-ethanediamine (0.22 mL, 2.02 mmol) were stirred at 85°C  
15 for 14 h. The crude product was purified through dissolution in 1 N HCl and extraction with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (2 x 15 mL). The aqueous phase was adjusted to pH 11 with 5 N NaOH and then extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (4 x 15 mL). The combined  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  phases were dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to provide the title compound (0.560 g, 82%) as an orange oil.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  8.22 (d,  $J=2.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.56 (dd,  $J=8.4$  Hz,  $J=2.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.53-3.40 (overlapping t,  $J=6.4$  Hz, and br s, 6H), 2.67 (t,  $J=6.4$  Hz, 2H), 2.33 (s, 6H), 1.22 (t,  $J=7.6$  Hz, 6H). MS (ESI) ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+ = 309$   
20

14B: 3-Amino-4-{[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]amino}- $N,N$ -diethylbenzamide.

Following general procedure 2C, 4-{[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]amino}- $N,N$ -diethyl-3-nitrobenzamide (0.560 g, 1.82 mmol) was hydrogenated for 3 h to give the title compound (0.531 g) as a greenish-tan solid. The crude product was used in subsequent steps.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  6.77, 6.76 (overlapping s and dd,  $J=6.4$  Hz,  $J=2.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.61 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.45 (br s, 4H), 3.29 (t,  $J=6.4$  Hz, 2H), 2.66 (t,  $J=6.4$  Hz, 2H), 2.34 (s, 6H), 1.19 (br t,  $J=6.8$  Hz, 6H). MS (ESI) ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+ = 279$   
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14C: 1-[2-(Dimethylamino)ethyl]-2-[2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)ethyl]- $N,N$ -diethyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.

Following procedure 13B, 3-(4-ethoxyphenyl)propanoic acid (0.0386 g, 0.198 mmol), HATU (0.0756 g, 0.199 mmol), DIPEA (0.047 mL, 0.27 mmol), and 4-{[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]amino}-*N,N*-diethyl-3-aminobenzamide (0.0503 g, 0.180 mmol) were combined. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (9:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH) to provide the title compound (0.0284 g, 36%). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  7.64 (s, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.78 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.14 (t, *J*=8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (q, *J*=7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.57 (br s, 2H), 3.35 (br s, 2H), 3.21-3.10 (m, 4H), 2.43 (t, *J*=7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.26 (s, 6H), 1.34 (t, *J*=7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.26, 1.16 (2 overlapping br s, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  174.03, 159.16, 158.09, 142.67, 136.55, 133.78, 132.24, 130.54, 122.10, 117.34, 115.65, 111.44, 64.43, 58.74, 45.80, 45.16, 42.64, 41.00, 34.46, 30.53, 15.18, 14.43, 13.12. MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 437. The HCl salt was prepared using HCl in Et<sub>2</sub>O. A white solid was obtained after lyophilization. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>36</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>•2.8 HCl•2.2 H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 54.00; H, 7.53; N, 9.69. Found: C, 54.12; H, 7.53; N, 9.36.

15 **Example 15:**

**1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-[2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)ethyl]-*N,N*-diethyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.**

Following general procedure 13B, 3-(4-ethoxyphenyl)propanoic acid (0.0409 g, 0.211 mmol), HATU (0.0801 g, 0.211 mmol), DIPEA (0.050 mL, 0.29 mmol), and 3-amino-4-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide (0.0500 g, 0.191 mmol) were combined. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (19:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH) to provide the title compound (0.0457 g, 57%). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  7.64 (s, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.77 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (d, *J*=7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.95 (q, *J*=6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.57 (br s, 2H), 3.34 (br s, 2H), 3.23-3.07 (m, 4H), 1.34 (t, *J*=6.4 Hz, 3H), 1.36-1.02 (overlapping 2 x br s and m, 7H), 0.55-0.46 (m, 2H), 0.40-0.32 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  174.08, 159.08, 157.72, 142.60, 136.95, 133.70, 132.03, 130.46, 121.97, 117.21, 115.59, 111.83, 64.41, 48.69, 45.15, 40.98, 34.38, 30.54, 15.18, 14.43, 13.12, 12.15, 4.54. MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 420. The HCl salt was prepared using HCl in Et<sub>2</sub>O. A white solid was obtained after lyophilization. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>•1.0 HCl•0.8 H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 66.38; H, 7.63; N, 8.93. Found: C, 66.35; H, 7.60; N, 8.81.

**Example 16:****2-(4-Ethoxybenzyl)-N,N-diethyl-1-isopentyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.**

16A: *N,N*-Diethyl-4-(isopentylamino)-3-nitrobenzamide.

Following general procedure 2B, *N,N*-diethyl-4-fluoro-3-nitrobenzamide (1.077 g, 4.48 mmol) and 3-methyl-1-butanamine (0.68 mL, 5.83 mmol) were stirred at 85 °C for 14 h to provide the title compound (1.425 g) as an orange oil. The crude product was used in subsequent steps.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  8.22 (d,  $J=2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.56 (dd,  $J=9.2$  Hz,  $J=2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d,  $J=9.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.52-3.40 (br m, 6H), 1.83-1.72 (m, 1H), 1.64 (q,  $J=7.6$  Hz, 2H), 1.23 (t,  $J=7.6$  Hz, 6H), 1.01 (d,  $J=6.8$  Hz, 6H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 308.

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16B: 3-Amino-*N,N*-diethyl-4-(isopentylamino)benzamide.

Following general procedure 2C, *N,N*-diethyl-4-(isopentylamino)-3-nitrobenzamide (1.425 g, 4.64 mmol) was hydrogenated for 41 h to give the title compound (1.312 g) as a deep blue solid. The crude product was used in subsequent steps.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  6.78-6.74 (m, 2H), 6.58 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.45 (br s, 4H), 3.17 (t,  $J=7.6$  Hz, 2H), 1.83-1.72 (m, 1H), 1.59 (q,  $J=7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.19 (t,  $J=6.4$  Hz, 6H), 0.98 (d,  $J=6.4$  Hz, 6H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 278

16C: 2-(4-Ethoxybenzyl)-*N,N*-diethyl-1-isopentyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.

Following general procedure 13B, (4-ethoxyphenyl)acetic acid (0.110 g, 0.612 mmol), HATU (0.233 g, 0.611 mmol), DIPEA (0.15 mL, 0.86 mmol), and 3-amino-*N,N*-diethyl-4-(isopentylamino)benzamide (0.154 g, 0.556 mmol) were combined. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (19:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH) to provide the title compound (0.211 g, 90%).  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  7.67 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.30 (dd,  $J=8.4$  Hz,  $J=2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d,  $J=9.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 2H), 4.28 (s, 2H), 4.12 (m, 2H), 3.98 (q,  $J=7.6$  Hz, 2H), 3.57 (br s, 2H), 3.34 (br s, 2H), 1.62-1.48 (m, 1H), 1.34 (t,  $J=7.6$  Hz, 3H), 1.36-1.07 (overlapping 2 x br s and m, 8H), 0.88 (d,  $J=6.8$  Hz, 6H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 422. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>35</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>•1.7 TFA•0.2 H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 57.05; H, 6.04; N, 6.79. Found: C, 57.11; H, 6.09; N, 6.69.

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**Example 17:****2-(4-Ethoxybenzyl)-N,N-diethyl-1-(4-pyridinylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.**

17A: *N,N*-Diethyl-3-nitro-4-[(4-pyridinylmethyl)amino]benzamide.

Following general procedure 2B, *N,N*-diethyl-4-fluoro-3-nitrobenzamide (0.272 g, 1.13 mmol) and 4-pyridinylmethanamine (0.11 mL, 1.12 mmol) were stirred at room temperature for 87 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (100% EtOAc, then 9:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH) to provide the title compound (0.181 g, 60%). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 8.49 (d, *J*=6.4 Hz, 2H), 8.27 (d, *J*=2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.42 (m, 3H), 6.87 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.77 (s, 2H), 3.44 (br s, 4H), 1.21 (t, *J*=7.2 Hz, 6H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 329

17B: 3-Amino-*N,N*-diethyl-4-[(4-pyridinylmethyl)amino]benzamide.

Following general procedure 2C, *N,N*-diethyl-3-nitro-4-[(4-pyridinylmethyl)amino]benzamide (0.181 g, 0.551 mmol) was hydrogenated for 20 h to give the title compound (0.172 g) as a viscous brown oil. The crude product was used in subsequent steps. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 8.45 (d, *J*=6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J*=6.4 Hz, 2H), 6.79 (d, *J*=2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (dd, *J*=7.2 Hz, *J*=2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.36 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 3.42 (br s, 4H), 1.17 (br t, 6H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 299

17C: 2-(4-Ethoxybenzyl)-*N,N*-diethyl-1-(4-pyridinylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.

Following general 13B, (4-ethoxyphenyl)acetic acid (0.0364 g, 0.202 mmol), HATU (0.0768 g, 0.202 mmol), DIPEA (0.048 mL, 0.28 mmol), and 3-amino-*N,N*-diethyl-4-[(4-pyridinylmethyl)amino]benzamide (0.0548 g, 0.184 mmol) were combined. The crude product was purified by reverse phase MPLC (gradient 10-50% CH<sub>3</sub>CN in H<sub>2</sub>O) to provide the title compound (0.0459 g, 36%) as its TFA salt. This material was lyophilized from H<sub>2</sub>O/dioxane to produce a white solid. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 8.60 (br s, 2H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dd, *J*=8.4 Hz, *J*=2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J*=5.6 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.71 (d, *J*=9.6 Hz, 2H), 6.06 (s, 2H), 4.54 (s, 2H), 3.93 (q, *J*=7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.59 (br s, 2H), 3.31 (br s, 2H), 1.35 (t, *J*=6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.38-1.04 (2 x br s, 6H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 443. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>•2.1 TFA•0.8 H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 53.81; H, 4.88; N, 8.04. Found: C, 53.74; H, 4.89; N, 8.07.

**Example 18:****2-(4-Ethoxybenzoyl)-N,N-diethyl-1-isopentyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.**

MnO<sub>2</sub> (0.641 g, 7.37 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-N,N-diethyl-1-isopentyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide (0.211 g, 0.500 mmol) in dry dioxane (4 mL) under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. The reaction was heated to 50 °C. After 64 h, an additional portion of MnO<sub>2</sub> (0.600 g, 6.90 mmol) was added and heating was continued at 50 °C for another 24 h. The reaction was cooled to room temperature, diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, and filtered through diatomaceous earth. The solids were washed well with additional CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, and the filtrate was concentrated to provide the crude product. Purification by column chromatography (1:1 EtOAc:Heptane) afforded the title compound (0.139 g, 64%) as a viscous, colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 8.19 (d, *J*=9.6 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (s, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dd, *J*=8.4 Hz, *J*=1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J*=9.2 Hz, 2H), 4.53 (dd, *J*=7.6 Hz, *J*=7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.13 (q, *J*=6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.58 (br s, 2H), 3.36 (br s, 2H), 1.78-1.70 (m, 2H), 1.72-1.56 (m, 1H), 1.41 (t, *J*=7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.34-1.10 (2 x br s, 6H), 0.94 (d, *J*=6.8 Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 185.72, 173.32, 165.47, 149.57, 142.00, 137.18, 134.65, 133.57, 130.19, 124.88, 119.93, 115.31, 112.75, 65.10, 45.12, 44.94, 41.00, 40.13, 27.18, 22.79, 14.99, 14.46, 13.12. MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 436. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>•0.5 H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 70.24; H, 7.71; N, 9.45. Found: C, 70.40; H, 7.64; N, 8.97.

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**Example 19:****2-(4-Ethoxybenzoyl)-N,N-diethyl-1-isopentyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carbothioamide.**

Lawesson's reagent (0.0963 g, 0.238 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 2-(4-ethoxybenzoyl)-N,N-diethyl-1-isopentyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide (0.0451 g, 0.104 mmol) in dry toluene (5 mL) under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. The reaction was heated to reflux for 0.5 h, and then cooled to room temperature and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (3:1 Hexanes:EtOAc) to provide the title compound (0.0137 g, 29%) as a glassy yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 8.19 (d, *J*=9.2 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.36 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, *J*=9.2 Hz, 2H), 4.55 (dd, *J*=8.4 Hz, *J*=7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.17 (q, *J*=7.6 Hz, 4H), 3.53 (q, *J*=7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.80-1.71 (m, 2H), 1.71-1.58 (m, 1H), 1.44 (t, *J*=7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.41 (t, *J*=7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.17 (t, *J*=7.6 Hz, 3H), 0.97 (d, *J*=6.4 Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 201.23, 185.95, 165.57, 149.55, 141.87, 141.18, 136.28, 134.64,

130.31, 124.56, 118.20, 115.41, 112.36, 65.15, 47.48, 44.89, 40.18, 27.20, 22.77, 14.95, 14.07, 11.44. MS (ESI)  $(M+H)^+$  = 452. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{26}H_{33}N_3O_2S \cdot 0.3 H_2O$ : C, 68.33; H, 7.41; N, 9.19. Found: C, 68.44; H, 7.52; N, 9.01.

5      **Example 20:**

**N-Cyclohexyl-1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-N-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.**

20A: 4-[(Cyclopropylmethyl)amino]-3-nitrobenzonitrile.

Following the general procedure 2B, 733 mg (4.42 mmol) of 4-fluoro-3-nitrobenzonitrile in 80% aqueous ethanol (20 mL) was added cyclopropylmethylamine (377 mg, 5.3 mmol) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 3 h before work-up. The crude product (920 mg, 96%) was used for the next step without further purification.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.52 (s, 1H), 8.51-8.47 (br, 1H), 7.59 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.22-3.20 (m, 2H), 1.25-1.15 (m, 1H), 0.73-0.59 (m, 2H), 0.42-0.35 (m, 2H).  
15      MS (ESI)  $[2 \times (M+H)^+]$ : 436.

20B: 3-amino-4-[(Cyclopropylmethyl)amino]benzonitrile.

Following the general procedure 2C, crude 4-[(cyclopropylmethyl)-amino]-3-nitrobenzonitrile (920 mg, 4.24 mmol) was hydrogenated for 2 h (35 psi) in 40 mL of EtOAc to yield 750 mg crude product (95%) and was used for the next step without further purification. MS (ESI)  $(M+H)^+$  = 188.

20C: 1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile.

Following the general procedure 2D, the freshly prepared (4-ethoxyphenyl)acetyl chloride (from 793 mg of acid, 4.4 mmol) and crude 3-amino-4-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]benzonitrile (750 mg, 4.01 mmol) were heated in acetic acid (HOAc) overnight. After work-up, the crude residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography to afford pure product (1.04 g, 78%) as an off-white solid.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.08 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 2H), 4.29 (s, 2H), 4.01 (d,  $J=7.6$  Hz, 2H), 3.96 (q,  $J=7.6$  Hz, 2H), 1.39 (t,  $J=7.6$  Hz, 3H), 1.04-1.00 (m, 1H), 0.58-0.53 (m, 2H), 0.29-0.25 (m, 2H). MS

(ESI)  $(M+H)^+$  = 332. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{21}H_{21}N_3O.0.1H_2O$ : C, 75.50; H, 6.41; N, 12.61. Found: C, 75.76; H, 6.72; N, 12.45.

20D: 1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxylic acid.

5 To a solution of 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile (500 mg, 1.51 mmol) in 1:1 EtOH:H<sub>2</sub>O (16 mL) was added KOH (338 mg, 6.04 mmol). The resulting mixture was refluxed for 36 h. The mixture was acidified with 1 N HCl to pH~6.0, the precipitate was collected by filtration to give white solids (520 mg, 99%) which was used for the next step without further purification. The analytically pure compound 10 was obtained by recrystallization (from EtOH:H<sub>2</sub>O). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  8.25 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J*=8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d, *J*=8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.28 (s, 2H), 4.06 (d, *J*=6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (q, *J*=7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.32 (t, *J*=7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.06-0.92 (m, 1H), 0.50-0.48 (m, 2H), 0.32-0.26 (m, 2H). MS (ESI)  $(M+H)^+$  = 351. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{21}H_{22}N_2O_3.0.7HCl$ : C, 67.09; H, 6.09; N, 7.45. Found: C, 66.98; H, 6.31; N, 7.09.

15 20E: N-Cyclohexyl-1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-N-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.

1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxylic acid (80 mg, 0.228 mmol) was dissolved in DMF (2 mL) and then HATU (104 mg, 0.274 mmol) was 20 added followed by DIPEA (48  $\mu$ L, 0.274 mmol). After stirring for 10 min, cyclohexylmethyl amine (0.456 mmol) was added and the resulting mixture was stirred overnight. The mixture was diluted with EtOAc (50 mL), washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (2 x 10 mL) and then H<sub>2</sub>O (2 x 10 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated to give a crude amide. The crude residue 25 was purified by silica gel column chromatography to give pure product which was treated with 1 M HCl solution in diethyl ether to form a HCl salt as white solids (93 mg, 78%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  7.66 (s, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J*=8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d, *J*=8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.30 (s, 2H), 4.10-4.04 (m, 5H), 3.96 (q, *J*=7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.66-3.54 (m, 1H), 1.90-1.50 (m, 10H), 1.33 (t, *J*=7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.10-0.98 (m, 1H), 0.50-0.42 (m, 2H), 0.32-0.27 (m, 2H). MS (ESI)  $(M+H)^+$  = 446. Anal. Calcd for 30  $C_{28}H_{35}N_3O_2.2.2HCl$ : C, 63.96; H, 7.13; N, 7.99. Found: C, 64.11; H, 7.24; N, 7.73.

**Example 21:****1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-5-(1-pyrrolidinylcarbonyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole.**

Following the general procedure 20E, 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxylic acid (80 mg, 0.228 mmol) was dissolved in DMF (2 mL) and then HATU (104 mg, 0.274 mmol) was added followed by DIPEA (48  $\mu$ L, 0.274 mmol). After being stirred for 10 min, pyrrolidine (0.456 mmol) was added and the resulting mixture was stirred overnight. The crude residue after work-up was purified by silica gel column chromatography to give pure product which was treated with 1 M HCl solution in diethyl ether to form a HCl salt as white solids (82 mg, 79%).  $^1$ H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  7.85 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d,  $J$ =8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d,  $J$ =8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d,  $J$ =8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d,  $J$ =8.1 Hz, 2H), 4.32 (s, 2H), 4.07 (d,  $J$ =6.8 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (q,  $J$ =7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.64 (t,  $J$ =7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.53 (t,  $J$ =7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.06-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.96-1.85 (m, 2H), 1.36 (t,  $J$ =7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.10-1.04 (m, 1H), 0.52-0.46 (m, 2H), 0.34-0.28 (m, 2H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 404. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>.1.5HCl: C, 65.53; H, 6.71; N, 9.17. Found: C, 65.48; H, 6.77; N, 8.75.

**Example 22:****1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-5-(1-pyrrolidinylcarbothioyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole.**

To a solution of free base 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-5-(1-pyrrolidinylcarbonyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole (Example 21, from 80 mg 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxylic acid) in pyridine (2 mL) was added P<sub>2</sub>S<sub>5</sub> (507 mg, 1.14 mmol). The mixture was heated at 100 °C for 24 h and cooled to room temperature. After being decanted, the supernatant was concentrated and the residue was diluted with EtOAc (20 mL), washed with 1 N NaOH (2 x 10 mL) and then H<sub>2</sub>O (2 x 10 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and was evaporated. The crude residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography to give an oil (59 mg, 62% for 2 steps).  $^1$ H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  7.70 (s, 1H), 7.39 (d,  $J$ =8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d,  $J$ =8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d,  $J$ =8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (d,  $J$ =8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.27 (s, 2H), 4.08-3.95 (m, 4H), 3.89 (d,  $J$ =6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.57 (t,  $J$ =7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.14-2.03 (m, 2H), 2.00-1.92 (m, 2H), 1.38 (t,  $J$ =7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.06-0.98 (m, 1H), 0.54-0.48 (m, 2H), 0.28-0.22 (m, 2H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 420.

**Example 23:****1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-[(5-ethoxy-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-5-(1-pyrrolidinylcarbonyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole.**

23A: [5-(Benzylloxy)-2-pyridinyl]acetic acid.

To a solution of 1.45 g (6.46 mmol) [5-(benzylloxy)-2-pyridinyl]acetonitrile (obtained in 6 steps from 6-methyl-3-pyridinol, see: W.M. Golebiewski and J.T. Wrobel, *Bull. Pol. Acad. Sci.*, **1990**, *38*, 17) in MeOH (9 mL) was added 25% NaOH (3 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at reflux for 48 h. After being cooled, most of the MeOH was removed *in vacuo*, water (10 mL) was added and the aqueous solution was washed with diethyl ether (2 x 10 mL) followed by acidification (pH ~ 6.0). The mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 20 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated to give pale yellow crystals (1.4 g, 89%).

MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 244.

23B: 2-{[5-(Benzylloxy)-2-pyridinyl]methyl}-1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile.

Following the general procedure 13B, 360 mg (1.48 mmol) of [5-(benzylloxy)-2-pyridinyl]acetic acid was coupled with 3-amino-4-[(Cyclopropylmethyl)amino]benzonitrile using HATU. The resulting intermediate was heated in HOAc (20 mL) at 90 °C overnight. After being concentrated, the crude residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography to afford the pure product (230 mg, 40% for 2 steps) as an oil. MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 395.

23C: 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-[(5-hydroxy-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile.

To a solution of 2-{[5-(benzylloxy)-2-pyridinyl]methyl}-1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile (200 mg, 0.51 mmol) in EtOH (10 mL) was added 10% Pd/C (20 mg). The mixture was hydrogenated overnight (40 psi). After filtration and concentration, the crude product was obtained as a pale yellow oil (120 mg, 77%) which was used in the next step without further purification. MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 305.

23D: 1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-[(5-ethoxy-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile.

To a solution of 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-[(5-hydroxy-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile (120 mg, 0.394 mmol) in DMSO (1 mL) was added MeONa

(25% in MeOH, 0.47 mmol). After being stirred at room temperature for 30 min, MeOH was removed *in vacuo* and EtI (0.47 mmol) was added, and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The solution was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL), extracted with EtOAc (2 x 20 mL), washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (2 x 10 mL), and lastly dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The residue obtained after evaporation was purified by silica gel column chromatography to give the pure product as an oil (84 mg, 64%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.19 (d, J= 3.0 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d, J=8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, J= 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, J= 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (dd, J= 10.0 Hz, J= 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (s, 2H), 4.15 (d, J= 6.8 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (q, J= 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.41 (t, J= 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.14-1.08 (m, 1H), 0.60-0.54 (m, 2H), 0.36-0.30 (m, 2H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 333.

23E: 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-[(5-ethoxy-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxylic acid.

To a solution 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-[(5-ethoxy-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile (400 mg, 1.203 mmol) in 1:1 EtOH:H<sub>2</sub>O (12 mL) was added KOH (269 mg, 4.81 mmol). The resulting mixture was refluxed for 36 h. The mixture was acidified with 1 N HCl to pH~6.0. The precipitate (397 mg, 94%) was used in the subsequent step without further purification. MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 352.

20 23F: 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-[(5-ethoxy-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-5-(1-pyrrolidinyl-carbonyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole.

Following the general procedure 20E, 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-[(5-ethoxy-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxylic acid (80 mg, 0.228 mmol) was dissolved in DMF (2 mL) and HATU (104 mg, 0.274 mmol) was added followed by DIPEA (48  $\mu$ L, 0.274 mmol). After being stirred for 10 min, pyrrolidine was added and the resulting mixture was stirred overnight. The crude residue obtained after work-up was purified using reverse phase preparative HPLC to give a TFA salt as white solids (42 mg, 37%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 8.18 (d, J= 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, J=9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.72 (dd, J= 9.2 Hz, J= 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, J= 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dd, J= 9.2 Hz, J= 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.89 (s, 2H), 4.43 (d, J= 6.8 Hz, 2H), 4.09 (q, J= 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.60 (t, J= 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.44 (t, J= 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.02-1.94 (m, 2H), 1.92-1.86 (m, 2H), 1.37 (t, J= 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.30-1.22 (m, 1H), 0.64-

0.58 (m, 2H), 0.48-0.44 (m, 2H). MS (ESI) ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> = 405. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>.0.8TFA.0.2H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 55.32; H, 5.12; N, 9.49. Found: C, 55.30; H, 4.91; N, 9.23.

**Example 24:**

**5 1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-5-(4-morpholinylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole.**

**24A: 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carbaldehyde.**

To a solution of 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile (0.049 g, 0.149 mmol) in 50% aqueous formic acid (1 mL) was added a catalytic amount of Raney nickel (50% suspension in water) and the resulting mixture was heated at 90 °C for 6 hours. The mixture was filtered through a short pad of diatomaceous earth and washed with EtOAc. The solvent was evaporated *in vacuo* and the residue was taken up into EtOAc (5 mL). The organic phase was washed with 1 N NaOH (2 x 2 mL) and brine (2 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (40% EtOAc/hexanes) to provide the title compound (0.041 g, 82%) as a white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (acetone-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 10.16 (s, 1H), 8.29 (s, 1H), 7.90 (d, *J*=8.4Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J*=8.4Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J*=8.4Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, *J*=8.4Hz, 2H), 4.44 (s, 2H), 4.24 (d, *J*=6.4Hz, 2H) 4.07 (q, *J*=6.8Hz, 2H), 1.40 (t, *J*=7.0Hz, 3H), 1.27-1.14 (m, 1H), 0.58-0.49 (m, 2H), 0.48-0.38 (m, 2H). MS (ESI) ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> = 335.

**20 24B: 1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-5-(4-morpholinylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole.**

To a solution 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carbaldehyde (0.077 g, 0.231 mmol) and acetic acid (0.135 mL, 0.236 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (THF) (0.25 mL) was added sodium triacetoxyborohydride (0.245 g, 0.268 mmol) and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 hours. Water (2 mL) and 1 N HCl (5 mL) were added and the mixture was stirred 10 minutes before being washed with EtOAc (2 x 5 mL). The aqueous layer was basified with 5 N NaOH (5 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (5 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (5% MeOH/EtOAc) to provide the title compound (0.0445 g, 47%) which was dissolved in 1 M HCl in diethyl ether to provide, after evaporation of the solvent, the HCl salt an oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (free base, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.28-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.14 (d, *J*=8.4Hz, 2H), 6.81 (d, *J*=8.4Hz, 2H), 4.26 (s, 2H), 3.98 (q, *J*=7.2Hz, 2H), 3.88

(d, 6.4H), 3.72-3.65 (m, 4H) 3.63 (s, 2H), 2.53-2.44 (m, 4H), 1.38 (t,  $J=8.6$ Hz, 3H), 1.07-1.00 (m, 1H), 0.53-0.48 (m, 2H), 0.29-0.22 (m, 2H). MS (ESI) ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> = 406.

**Example 25:**

5 **1-[1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]ethanone.**

25A: 1-[1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]ethanol.

To a solution 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carbaldehyde (2.32 g, 6.94 mmol) in THF (60 mL) at 0 °C was added 3 M methyl magnesium bromide in THF (13.9 mL, 41.7 mmol) and the resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 90 minutes. Water (50 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred 10 minutes before being extracted with EtOAc (3 x 100 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (50 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mL) was added to the crude product, the resulting suspension was filtered, the solid was washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 mL) and dried to provide the title compound (1.915 g, 79%) as a white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.31 (s, 2H), 7.12 (d,  $J=8.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.79 (d,  $J=8.0$ Hz, 2H), 5.03 (q,  $J=6.3$ Hz, 2H), 4.27 (s, 2H), 3.98 (q,  $J=6.8$ Hz, 2H) 3.90 (d,  $J=6.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.33 (br s, 1H), 1.56 (d,  $J=6.4$ Hz, 3H), 1.38 (t,  $J=7.0$ Hz, 3H), 1.05-0.99 (m, 1H), 0.53-0.48 (m, 2H), 0.26-0.23 (m, 2H). MS (ESI) ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> = 351. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C, 75.40; H, 7.48; N, 7.99. Found: C, 75.22; H, 7.32; N, 7.99.

20 25B: 1-[1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]ethanone.

To a mixture 1-[1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]ethanol (1.35 g, 3.86 mmol), N-methylmorpholine-N-oxide (0.497 g, 4.24 mmol) and 4 Å molecular sieves (2.0 g) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) was added tetrapropylammonium perruthenate (0.068 g, 0.193 mmol) and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 90 minutes. N-methylmorpholine-N-oxide (0.124 g, 1.06 mmol) and acetonitrile (1 mL) were added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The solvent was concentrated *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (30% EtOAc/hexanes to 60% EtOAc/hexanes) to provide the title compound (0.880 g, 65%) as a white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.34 (s, 1H), 7.94 (dd,  $J=8.4$ Hz,  $J=2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d,  $J=8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d,  $J=8.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.91 (dd,  $J=6.4$ Hz,  $J=2.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.29 (s, 2H), 3.98 (q,  $J=7.2$ Hz, 2H) 3.41 (d,  $J=6.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.67 (s, 3H), 1.38 (t,  $J=7.0$ Hz, 3H), 1.07-1.00 (m, 1H), 0.55-0.51 (m, 2H), 0.29-0.26 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 198.71,

159.01, 156.43, 143.29, 140.01, 132.68, 130.44, 128.67, 123.50, 121.95, 115.83, 110.73, 64.38, 49.23, 34.63, 27.63, 15.76, 11.99, 5.20. MS (ESI) ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> = 349. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> + 0.1 H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 75.44; H, 6.96; N, 8.00. Found: C, 75.48; H, 7.13; N, 8.01.

5      **Example 26:**

**Methyl-1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl carbamate.**

26A: Methyl 4-fluoro-3-nitrophenylcarbamate.

To a stirred solution of 4-fluoro-3-nitro-aniline (10.30 g, 65.97 mmol), DIPEA (15.00 mL, 86.11 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (150 mL) was added dropwise methyl chloroformate (6.86 g, 72.59 mmol) at 0 °C. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and then stirred at room temperature overnight. The mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (100 mL), washed with 3 N HCl (50 mL), brine (20 mL), and dried over sodium sulfate. Removal of solvent afforded crude carbamate as light brown solid (13.03 g, 92%).

15      26B: Methyl 4-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]-3-nitrophenylcarbamate.

Following general procedure 2B: To methyl 4-fluoro-3-nitrophenylcarbamate (6.50 g, 30.35 mmol, from previous step) in 80% aqueous ethanol (100 mL) was added cyclopropanemethylamine (5.00 mL, 57.65 mmol) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was heated at 60 °C overnight. After the usual work up, the crude product, which precipitated out, was collected (8.21 g). MS (ESI) ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> = 266,

26C: Methyl 3-amino-4-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]phenylcarbamate.

Following general procedure 2C: methyl 4-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]-3-nitrophenylcarbamate (8.21 g) was hydrogenated in ethyl acetate (100 mL) catalyzed by 25 10%Pd/C (500 mg) at 15-25 psi H<sub>2</sub> for 1 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through diatomaceous earth, and removal of solvent gave the desired diamine (4.0 g, 56% for two steps). This material was used in the subsequent step without further purification. MS (ESI) ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> = 236.

30      26D: Methyl-1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-ylcarbamate.

Following general procedure 13B: Methyl 3-amino-4-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]-phenylcarbamate (4.0 g, 17.0 mmol), DIPEA (5 mL), 4-ethoxyphenylacetic acid (3.06 g, 17.0 mmol) and HATU (7.10 g, 18.7 mmol) were combined. The desired product (3.34 g, 52%)

precipitated out of the reaction mixture.  $^1\text{H}$ NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.65 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (br., 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 4 Hz), 7.12 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.74 (br., 1H), 4.25 (s, 2H), 3.98 (q, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 1.38 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 1.05-0.97 (m, 1H), 0.52-0.47 (m, 2H), 0.25-0.20 (m, 2H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 380.

5

**Example 27:*****N*-[1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-N,5-dimethyl-3-isoxazolecarboxamide.**

27A: 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-N-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-amine.

10 Methyl-1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-ylcarbamate (1.65 g, 4.35 mmol) was added portionwise to a cold (0 °C) solution of AlH<sub>3</sub> (~0.3 M), which was freshly prepared by adding dropwise conc. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (0.80 g, 8.10 mmol) to 1 M LiAlH<sub>4</sub> THF solution (16 ml, 16 mmol) in THF (30 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight, and subsequently quenched carefully by adding EtOAc (5 mL), 15 H<sub>2</sub>O (3 mL) and Et<sub>2</sub>O (100 mL), and then Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>•5 H<sub>2</sub>O (10 g). The reaction mixture was stirred until a clear solution was produced, and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford desired compound (1.21 g). The crude product was used for next step without further purification.

20 27B: *N*-[1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-N,5-dimethyl-3-isoxazolecarboxamide.

To a solution of 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-N-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-amine (100 mg, 0.30 mmol) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (200 mg, 0.20 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mL) was added 5-methyl-3-isoxazolecarbonyl chloride (0.1 mL) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight and quenched with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (1 mL). The mixture was diluted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL), washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, and then brine, and finally dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Following concentration, the resulting residue was purified by preparative HPLC to give desired material as the TFA salt (40 mg, 24%). The TFA salt was dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) and neutralized with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 × 20 mL). The combined ethereal solution was washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated. The free base was converted to its HCl salt (20 mg).  $^1\text{H}$ NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  7.86 (br., 1H), 7.62 (br., 1H), 7.45 (br., 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.53 (s, 2H), 4.34 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.50 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 1.34

(t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.26-1.16 (m, 1H), 0.62-0.55 (m, 2H), 0.46-0.40 (m, 2H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 445. Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.1.15HCl: C, 64.19; H, 5.92; N, 11.51. Found: C, 64.59; H, 5.74; N, 10.97.

5 **Example 28:**

**Isopropyl-1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl-methyl)carbamate.**

To a solution of 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-N-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-amine (67 mg, 0.20 mmol) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.1 mL) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 mL) was added 10 isopropyl chloroformate (1 M in toluene, 0.24 mL, 0.24 mmol) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight, and quenched with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (1 mL). The mixture was diluted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL), washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and then concentrated. The resulting residue was purified by preparative HPLC to give TFA salt (10 mg, 9%). <sup>1</sup>HNMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 7.87 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (dd, J = 1.6, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.95-4.85 (m, 1H), 4.54 (s, 2H), 4.35 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 1.343 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.27-1.19 (m, 1H), 1.19 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 6H), 0.63-0.56 (m, 2H), 0.47-0.42 (m, 2H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 422. Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.1.35TFA.0.05H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 57.72; H, 5.67; N, 7.29. Found: C, 57.68; H, 5.33; N, 7.23.

20

**Example 29:**

**(2*S*)-*N*-[1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*,1-dimethyl-2-pyrrolidinecarboxamide.**

To a stirred solution of 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-N-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-amine (80 mg, 0.24 mmol) in DMF (3 ml) was added DIPEA (0.2 ml) and (2*S*)-1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinecarboxylic acid (80 mg, 0.62 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 min, and then HATU (280 mg, 0.73 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was then stirred at room temperature overnight. Saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (1 ml) and H<sub>2</sub>O (20 ml) were added and the mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2 × 20 ml). The combined extracts were washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (5 ml) and brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo* to give a crude amide which was purified by preparative HPLC to give its TFA salt (18 mg, 13%). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 447.

**Example 30:*****N*-*tert*-butyl-*N*-[1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-methylurea.**

5 *tert*-Butylisocyanate (0.1 mL) was added to a solution of 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-*N*-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-amine (34 mg, 0.10 mmol) in ethylene chloride (5 mL), and the reaction mixture was then heated at 60 °C overnight. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc) to give desired urea (26 mg, 59%).

10 <sup>1</sup>HNMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): Free base δ 7.61 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (dd, J = 2.0, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.28 (s, 1H), 4.27 (s, 2H), 4.00 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.93 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.26 (s, 3H), 1.40 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.28-1.20 (m, 1H), 1.25 (s, 9H), 0.58-0.53 (m, 2H), 0.31-0.26 (m, 2H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 435. The HCl salt was prepared using HCl in diethyl ether.

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>34</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>.1.20HCl.1.10C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O: C, 64.03; H, 7.96; N, 10.59. Found: C, 64.10; H, 7.53; N, 10.30.

15

**Example 31:*****N*-[1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*'-(2-methoxyphenyl)-*N*-methylthiourea.**

20 1-Iothiocyanato-2-methoxybenzene (100 mg, 0.61 mmol) was added to a solution of 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-*N*-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-amine (100 mmol, 0.30 mmol) in DMF (5 mL). The reaction mixture was heated at 50 °C overnight. The crude product isolated following removal of the solvent was purified by chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> 1:1) giving the desired product (85 mg, 57%) <sup>1</sup>HNMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): free base δ 8.26 (dd, J = 2.0, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.43 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd, J = 1.6, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.08-7.02 (m, 1H), 6.98-6.92 (m, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.75 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (s, 2H), 4.00 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 1.37 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.10-1.00 (m, 1H), 0.59-0.52 (m, 2H), 0.32-0.25 (m, 2H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 501.

30

**Example 32:*****N*-Allyl-*N*-[1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]acetamide.**

32A: *N*-(4-fluoro-3-nitrophenyl)acetamide.

4-Fluoro-3-nitro-aniline (45.0 g) was added portionwise to acetic anhydride (150 mL) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The desired product precipitated and it was collected and dried *in vacuo* (42.0 g, 70%).

5 32B: *N*-{4-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]-3-nitrophenyl}acetamide.

Following general procedure 2B: To a solution of *N*-(4-fluoro-3-nitrophenyl)acetamide (15.4 g, 77.7 mmol) in 80% aqueous ethanol (150 mL) was added cyclopropanemethylamine (10 mL) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was heated to reflux overnight. After cooling to room temperature, H<sub>2</sub>O (300 mL) was added and the desired product precipitated out as an orange solid (18 g, 92%).

32C: *N*-{3-amino-4-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]phenyl}acetamide.

Following general procedure 2C: *N*-{4-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]-3-nitrophenyl}acetamide (7.0 g, 28 mmol) was hydrogenated in ethyl acetate (300 mL) with 15 10% Pd/C (0.8 g) at 25 psi H<sub>2</sub> in Parr shaker. After work up, isolated the desired product (5.5 g, 89%).

32D: *N*-[1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]acetamide.

Following procedure 13B, *N*-{3-amino-4-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]phenyl}acetamide (5.50 g, 25.11 mmol), DIPEA (6.50 ml, 37.5 mmol), 4-ethoxyphenylacetic acid (5.40 g, 30.0 mmol) and HATU (11.40 g, 30.0 mmol) in 20 DMF (100 ml) were stirred at room temperature overnight. Isolated the desired product (4.5 g, 86%).

<sup>1</sup>HNMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  7.89 (s, 1H), 7.44-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.13 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.25 (s, 2H), 4.03-3.94 (m, 4H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 1.34 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.06-0.96 (m, 1H), 0.48-0.41 (m, 2H), 0.29-0.22 (m, 2H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 364. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>.1.5H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 67.67; H, 7.23; N, 10.76. Found: C, 67.50; H, 7.12; N, 10.65.

32E: *N*-allyl-*N*-[1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]acetamide.

30 Allyl bromide (0.3 mL) was added to a well-stirred two phase solution of 50% KOH (5 mL), *N*-[1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]acetamide (545 mg, 1.50 mmol) and n-Bu<sub>4</sub>NBr (64 mg, 0.2 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (15 mL) at room temperature under nitrogen. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h, and then diluted

with H<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL), extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 × 50 mL). The extracts were combined and washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Removal of solvent gave a yellowish residue (530 mg) which was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (MeOH/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 1:10) to afford product (510 mg, 84%).

5 <sup>1</sup>HNMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.54 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (dd, J = 2.0, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.98-5.84 (m, 1H), 5.12-5.04 (m, 2H), 4.34 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 4.27 (s, 2H), 4.01 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.93 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.88 (s, 3H), 1.39 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.10-1.00 (m, 1H), 0.59-0.52 (m, 2H), 0.31-0.26 (m, 2H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 404. The HCl salt was prepared using HCl in diethyl ether. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>·HCl·1.5H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 64.24; H, 7.07; N, 8.99. Found: C, 63.96; H, 6.80; N, 8.84.

### Example 33:

#### *N*-Allyl-1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-amine.

15 To a solution *N*-allyl-*N*-[1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]acetamide (510 mg) in EtOH (20 mL) was added 20% KOH (20 mL). The reaction mixture was heated to reflux overnight, and then allowed to cool to room temperature. The mixture was concentrated in vacuo to around 20 mL, and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 × 100 mL). The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*.  
20 The residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 25:1) to give light yellow oil (400 mg, 87%).

1 <sup>1</sup>HNMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 8.03 (br., 1H), 7.64 (br., 1H), 7.54 (br., 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.03-5.92 (m, 1H), 5.43 (d, J = 24.8 Hz, 1H), 5.40 (d, J = 18.8 Hz, 1H), 4.59 (s, 2H), 4.41 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 4.03 (q, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.36 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 1.30-1.18 (m, 1H), 0.66-0.58 (m, 2H), 0.50-0.42 (m, 2H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 362. The HCl salt was prepared using HCl in diethyl ether. Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O·2HCl·1.25H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 60.46; H, 6.89; N, 9.19. Found: C, 60.53; H, 6.64; N, 8.89.

### Example 34:

30 1-[1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-2-pyrrolidinone.

34A: 1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-amine.

A solution of *N*-[1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]acetamide (727 mg, 2 mmol) in 1:1 20% KOH:EtOH (20 mL) was stirred at reflux overnight.

After being cooled, the mixture was acidified with 1 N HCl to pH ~ 6.0, and the precipitate was collected by filtration to give the desired product as a pale yellow solid 611 mg (95%).  
MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 322.

5 34B: 1-[1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-2-pyrrolidinone.

To 1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-amine (72 mg, 0.22 mmol) and DIPEA (150  $\mu$ L) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 mL) was added 4-bromobutyryl chloride (40  $\mu$ L, 0.35 mmol). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 3 h, then 50% KOH (3 mL) and n-Bu<sub>4</sub>NBr (5 mg) were added to the reaction mixture. The reaction was vigorously stirred for 10 4 h, diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL), and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2  $\times$  20 mL). The combined extracts were washed with H<sub>2</sub>O, then brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated in vacuo to give the crude lactam which was purified by preparative TLC, and subsequently by preparative HPLC to afford desired products the TFA salt (11 mg, 10%). <sup>1</sup>HNMR(CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  8.14 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (dd, J = 2.0, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 4.56 (s, 2H), 4.37 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 4.03 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.63 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.20 (tt, J = 7.6, 8.4 Hz, 2H), 1.36 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.28-1.18 (m, 1H), 0.64-0.57 (m, 2H), 0.49-0.42 (m, 2H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 390. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>.TFA.0.1H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 61.80; H, 5.63; N, 8.32. Found: C, 61.75; H, 5.30; N, 7.99.

20

### Example 35:

3-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-*N,N*-diethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine-6-carboxamide.

35A: 6-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]-5-nitronicotinic acid.

25

Cyclopropanemethylamine (1.70 g, 23.90 mmol) was added to a solution of 6-chloro-5-nitronicotinic acid (1.12 g, 5.53 mmol) in MeOH (25 mL) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL), and the solution was acidified by adding 3N HCl until pH  $\approx$  3. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2  $\times$  100 mL) and the combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, concentrated in vacuo to give a bright yellow solid (1.30 g) which was used in the following reaction without further purification.

30

35B: Methyl 6-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]-5-nitronicotinate.

6-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]-5-nitronicotinic acid (1.30 g) was dissolved in MeOH/toluene(1:1, 60 mL), and TMSCHN<sub>2</sub> (2 M in hexane, 6 mL) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight, and concentrated *in vacuo* to give crude methyl ester (1.5 g) which was used for next step without purification.

5

35C: Methyl 5-amino-6-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]nicotinate.

Following general procedure 2C: Methyl 6-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]-5-nitronicotinate (1.5 g) was hydrogenated in ethyl acetate (50 mL) with 10% Pd/C (100 mg) at 20 psi H<sub>2</sub> in Parr shaker for 2 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through diatomaceous earth and the solvent removed to give the diamine (1.12 g) which was used without additional purification in the next step.

35D: Methyl 3-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine-6-carboxylate.

Following general procedure 13B: Combined methyl 5-amino-6-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]nicotinate (950 mg, ~4.3 mmol), DIPEA (1.1 ml), 4-ethoxyphenylacetic acid (850 mg, 4.72 mmol) and HATU (1.80, 4.74 mmol) in DMF (15 mL). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc) to produce the desired product (530 mg, 34%).

<sup>1</sup>HNMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.00 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.61 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.33 (s, 2H), 4.06 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 1.39 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.16-1.06 (m, 1H), 0.52-0.45 (m, 2H), 0.44-0.38 (m, 2H).

35E: 3-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine-6-carboxylic acid.

To a solution of methyl 3-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine-6-carboxylate (260 mg, 0.71 mmol) in THF/MeOH (1:1, 6 ml) was added 1 N NaOH (3 ml, 3mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O (10 ml), and acidified by adding 1 N HCl solution to pH ~ 5. The solid was collected (230 mg), and the filtrate was extracted with EtOAc (2 × 50 ml). The extracts were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford an additional crop of product (20 mg). The desired acid was produced in quantitative yield.

<sup>1</sup>HNMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 8.93 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.50 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 4.33 (s, 2H), 4.11 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.95 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.16-1.03 (m, 1H), 0.43-0.32 (m, 4H).

5 35F: 3-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-N,N-diethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine-6-carboxamide.

To a stirred solution of 3-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine-6-carboxylic acid (150 mg, 0.43 mmol) in DMF (5 ml) was added DIPEA (0.12 ml, 0.69 mmol) and diethylamine (60 μL, 0.58 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 min, and then HATU (200 mg, 0.53 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight and subsequently poured in ice water (20 ml) with stirring. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc (100 ml) and the extract was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (20 ml), dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/MeOH, 20:1) to give desired amide (115 mg, 64%) which was converted to the corresponding HCl salt using HCl in diethyl ether with methanol as co-solvent. <sup>1</sup>HNMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 8.46 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.46 (s, 2H), 4.24 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.98 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.57 (br, 2H), 3.32 (br, 2H), 1.33 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.32-1.10 (m, 7H), 0.56-0.44 (m, 4H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 423. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>•HCl•0.20CH<sub>3</sub>OH: C, 64.68; H, 7.07; N, 12.48. Found: C, 65.07; H, 7.13; N, 12.13.

**Example 36:**

25 N-Cyclopentyl-1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-sulfonamide.

36A: 1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-sulfonyl chloride.

To a mixture of conc. HCl (0.6 mL) and HOAc (0.18 mL) was added 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-amine (193 mg, 0.6 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred and cooled to <-10 °C, and then a solution of NaNO<sub>2</sub> (44.8 mg, 0.65 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (0.065 mL) was added slowly and the mixture was stirred between -10 °C and -5°C for 45 min. In a separate flask, SO<sub>2</sub> was bubbled for 30 min into acetic acid (0.6 mL). CuCl (15 mg) was then added and more SO<sub>2</sub> was bubbled until the yellow-green suspension became blue-green. The mixture containing the copper was then cooled to <10 °C,

and the diazotization mixture was added dropwise with stirring. After all the diazonium salt were added, the mixture was poured into ice water (1:1, 4 mL) and then extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 15 mL), washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (2 x 10 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated to give an yellow oil (190 mg, 78%), which was used in the subsequent reaction 5 soon after formation and without further purification. MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 405.

36B: N-Cyclopentyl-1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-sulfonamide.

To a crude solution of 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-10 5-sulfonyl chloride (from 0.2 mmol of aniline precursor) in dichloromethane (4 mL) was added cyclopentyl amine (0.4 mmol) followed by pyridine (0.5 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. Water (10 mL) was added and the mixture was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 x 10 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography to give the pure product which was treated with 15 1 M HCl solution in diethyl ether to form the HCl salt (62 mg, 81%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 8.29 (s, 1H), 7.78 (d, J=8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, J= 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, J= 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d, J= 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.32 (s, 2H), 4.02-3.94 (m, 4H), 3.62-3.58 (m, 1H), 1.80-1.74 (m, 2H), 1.64-1.56 (m, 2H), 1.50-1.42 (m, 2H), 1.39 (t, J= 8.2 Hz, 3H), 1.42-1.34 (m, 2H), 1.08-1.00 (m, 1H), 0.58-0.54 (m, 2H), 0.30-0.25 (m, 2H). MS (ESI) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> = 454. Anal. 20 Calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S.0.3HCl: C, 64.64; H, 6.79; N, 9.05. Found: C, 64.45; H, 6.97; N, 8.66.

**Example 37:**

**1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-5-[(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)sulfonyl]-1*H*-benzimidazole.**

25 Following general procedure 36B: Used 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-sulfonyl chloride (from 0.2 mmol of aniline precursor), 1-methylpiperazine (0.4 mmol) pyridine (0.5 mL) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (4 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. Isolated the desired product as the HCl salt after column chromatography and treatment with 1 M HCl solution in diethyl ether (59 mg, 75%). 30 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, J=8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J= 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, J= 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, J= 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.80 (s, 3H), 4.31 (s, 2H), 4.10 (d, J= 7.2 Hz,

2H), 3.95 (q,  $J=8.0$  Hz, 2H), 3.04 – 2.96 (m, 4H), 2.50-2.44 (m, 4H), 1.32 (t,  $J=8.0$  Hz, 3H), 1.08-0.98 (m, 1H), 0.47-0.43 (m, 2H), 0.31-0.26 (m, 2H). MS(ESI) ( $M+1$ )<sup>+</sup>: 469. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{25}H_{32}N_4O_3S.2.7HCl.0.4H_2O$ : C, 52.29; H, 6.23; N, 9.76. Found: C, 52.54; H, 6.21; N, 8.67.

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**Example 38:****1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-N-ethyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-sulfonamide.**

Following general procedure 36B: Used 1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-sulfonyl chloride (from 0.2 mmol of aniline precursor), ethyl amine (2M solution in THF, 0.4 mmol) and pyridine (0.5 mL) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (4 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. Isolated the desired product as the HCl salt after column chromatography and treatment with 1 M HCl solution in diethyl ether (61 mg, 87%).  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CD_3OD$ ):  $\delta$  8.28 (s, 1H), 7.78 (d,  $J=8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d,  $J=8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d,  $J=8.8$  Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d,  $J=8.8$  Hz, 2H), 4.32 (s, 2H), 4.02-3.93 (m, 4H), 3.06-2.98 (m, 2H), 1.38 (t,  $J=7.6$  Hz, 3H), 1.10 (t,  $J=8.0$  Hz, 3H), 1.07-1.00 (m, 1H), 0.55-0.52 (m, 2H), 0.30-0.24 (m, 2H). MS (ESI) ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> = 414. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{22}H_{27}N_3O_3S.1.1HCl$ : C, 58.25; H, 6.24; N, 9.26. Found: C, 58.19; H, 6.73; N, 8.62.

**Example 39:****2-(4-Ethoxyanilino)-N,N-diethyl-1-isopentyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.**

A solution of methyl 4-ethoxyphenyldithiocarbamate (0.0274 g, 0.121 mmol) in DMF (0.2 mL) was added to a mixture of 3-amino-N,N-diethyl-4-(isopentylamino)benzamide (0.0334 g, 0.120 mmol) and red mercury(II) oxide (0.0261 g, 0.121 mmol) in DMF (0.2 mL). The resulting suspension was stirred vigorously for 5.5 h, and an additional portion of red mercury(II) oxide (0.0130 g, 0.0600 mmol) was added. After stirring an additional 16 h, the reaction was diluted with 9:1  $CH_2Cl_2$ :MeOH, loaded onto a small plug of silica gel, and eluted with the same solvent system. The eluant was concentrated, and the residue was purified by reverse phase HPLC (gradient 20-70%  $CH_3CN$  in  $H_2O$ ) to provide the title compound (0.0287 g, 45%) as its TFA salt. This material was lyophilized from  $H_2O$ /dioxane to produce a white solid.  $^1H$ -NMR ( $CD_3OD$ ):  $\delta$  7.60 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.38 (2 overlapping d, 3H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 7.11 (d,  $J=9.2$  Hz, 2H), 4.32 (br t,  $J=7.2$  Hz, 2H), 4.12 (q,  $J=7.6$  Hz, 2H), 3.56 (br s, 2H), 3.32 (br s, 2H), 1.85-1.76 (br m, 3H), 1.43 (t,  $J=7.6$  Hz, 3H), 1.25 (br s, 3H), 1.14 (br s, 3H),



















































































